

# *African Violet Magazine*

MARCH 1950

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 3



# THE AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

Published quarterly by  
THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
OF AMERICA, INC.

Vol. 3, No. 3

March 1950

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Alma Wright, Editor  
4030 McCalla Ave., Knoxville 15, Tenn.

Mary Parker, Assistant Editor  
Harrill Hills, Knoxville 18, Tenn.

Evan Roberts, Assistant Editor  
355 N. Harrison St., E. Lansing, Mich.

Floyd L. Johnson, Advertising Mgr.  
964 Whittier Road, Spencerport, N. Y.

Arthur Chard, Art Editor  
33 Jefferson Ave., Haverhill, Mass.

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor  
1920 West 3rd, Perry, Iowa.

Neil C. Miller, Mgr. Veterans Affairs  
Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J.

Contributing Editors — Boyce Edens,  
Regina Gottshall, Leberta Morgan.

News Reporters — Harriett F. Lawton  
Emily Hodan Daisy Jones  
Warren Gottshall Phyllis Ferrall  
Martha Mears Ruth Dahnke  
Florence Foltz Laura E. Littig

Homing Pigeon Dept.:

Violet Berry, News Editor  
710 E. 6th St., Mt. Vernon, Ind.

Gladys Canner, Membership Mgr.  
Route 1, Creek Rd., Herkimer, N. Y.

The African Violet Magazine is published quarterly in September, December, March and June by the African Violet Magazine Publishing Co., P. O. Box 1326, 201 W. Clinch Ave., Knoxville, Tennessee.

Communications should be addressed to Executive and Editorial offices, Alma Wright, Editor, 4030 McCalla Ave., Knoxville 15, Tennessee.

Subscription: To members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., only.  
Dues \$3.00 a year.

Advertising rates: Quarterly \$3.00 per column inch. Yearly \$2.50 per column inch.

Application for entry as second-class matter pending.

Copyright March 1950 by African Violet Magazine Publishing Co.

## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members:

Most undignified behavior I know . . . but when the Editor of your African Violet Magazine gets 10 or 12 notices from the postoffice saying, "Moved left no address" or "Returned for better address" et cetera each time the magazine is mailed out to you . . . she wants to scream and bellar ! ! !

Please send me your address promptly if you move, as it will save time and money. I am very worried over our lost members. Will each of you read the list and help us in our search for them? They have paid their dues and they must be sent their copies of the magazine. Will you help?

Your attention is particularly called to the first of a series of fine articles "Species and Nomenclature of the African Violet", by Harvey Cox and Evan Roberts. You will in the succeeding issues have the privilege of seeing photographs and having proper identification of the species by these saintpaulia experts. The Society is indeed much indebted to these generous members for the sharing of their knowledge and information with you.

Beginning with the June magazine, Neil and Mary Miller will have the first part of their article "Nematodes and Parathion" for you. This is good club program material and it is especially recommended to you for your serious thought.

I'm going to be loafing at the Philadelphia meeting, and I will have plenty of time to talk . . . So brush up on your promises . . . I'm looking for some good stories for future issues, — So until May 12th and 13th.

Most sincerely,

*Alma Wright*

## OFFICERS

Mrs. Arthur Radtke, President  
3334 Orion St.  
Cincinnati 13, Ohio

Mr. Wm. E. Merkle, 1st V. Pres.  
1238 Maple St.  
Mentor, Ohio

Mrs. C. H. Harris, 2nd V. Pres.  
757 Athens Boulevard  
Los Angeles 44, California

Mrs. Martin Wangberg, Rec. Sec'y.  
1920 West Third St.  
Perry, Iowa

Mr. Floyd L. Johnson, Corres. Sec'y.  
964 Whittier Rd.  
Spencerport, New York

Mr. W. E. J. Gottshall, Treasurer  
P. O. Box 901  
Alexandria, Virginia



# Contents

VOL. 3 NO. 3

MARCH 1950

Cover Illustration .....	Fischer's White Fringette	
		Page
Plans for Saintpaulia Research .....	Myrtle Radtke	4
Species Nomenclature of the African Violet .....	Harvey Cox and Evan Roberts	5
Failure and Success .....	Mardie Eckhardt	6
The First Commercial African Violet Grower .....	Evan Roberts	7
Announcing Popular Gardening .....		7
Let's Visit .....	The Visitors	8
Decorating With African Violets .....	Lois Russell	11
Paul Rockelman and the Fringette Series .....	Warren and Regina Gottshall	12
Your Hint Hunter .....	Phyllis Ferrall	14
Achimenes .....	Louise Smouse	15
Something New .....	Laura Littig	15
The Earhart Plant Research Laboratory California Institute of Technology .....	Clarissa Harris	16
Philadelphia Your Convention City .....	Esther Schadewald	18
Convention Program .....		19
Plant Breeding .....	Violet Berry	20
Statement of Plant Patent Act Intent and Patent Procedures .....	Florists Review	22
Having Double Trouble? .....	Florence Foltz	24
Our Bashful Beauties .....	Margaret Doell	25
Growing Saintpaulias in California .....	Ethel Thalmeyer	25
Mile High Hobby .....	Annette Scully	26
What I Have Learned by the Trial and Error Method .....	Edith Mackey	27
A Visit with Fay Wilcox .....	Emily Hodan	28
The Homing Pigeon .....		30
Answers to Important Questions About Our Plan of Registration .....	Boyce Edens	31
Committee on Registration Reports .....		32
What's in a Name? .....	Daisy Jones	33
The Sale .....	R. E. Memberthis	34
Greenhouse Tips .....	Charlotte Hughes	36
"Y-E-S, You Can Quote Me!" .....	Daisy Jones	37
Humidity in the Little Greenhouse .....	Martha Mears	38
Soil Sterilization .....	James Pointer	39
Cincinnati Show .....		41
Schedule of Awards-Fourth Annual Convention .....		42
San Gabriel Society .....		43
Club News .....	Maxine Wangberg	44

# *The Presidents Message*

## *Plans for Saintpaulia Research*



Very humbly, especially after the generous send-off given by our popular and beloved retiring president, does your new president assume the duties of this office. Our young but vigorous Society has made great strides under the capable leadership it has had, and I shall need the help of every one of you, my fellow members, to continue in the pace that has been attained.

I am very proud and happy to have been chosen to serve the Society and pledge my very best efforts in its behalf, as do your other officers.

In a very short span of time we have grown from a mere handful of members to more than three thousand; we have gained momentum as we went along and are growing by leaps and bounds. We have two very efficient new committees, the Registration Committee and the one on Awards — these are big steps toward accomplishing worthwhile goals.

We now have an opportunity for another worthwhile accomplishment.

Prof. Alex Laurie, whom many of you heard at the Convention last April, has made it possible for a young student at Ohio State University, under Prof. Laurie's supervision, to do post graduate research work on Saintpaulias. This work will benefit all of us who grow violets and will cover phases of interest and importance to every one. The young man who is to do this work will, from time to time, submit his findings in articles in our delightful magazine.

The cost of this project is twelve hundred dollars (\$1200.00), some of which has already been subscribed by some individual members and by several of our commercial growers.

I believe you will all want a part in this and am suggesting that any local clubs which are so inclined make donations toward this worthy project. The amount is entirely up to you. No matter if it be large or small, every donation will help and it is the idea - the unity - of all of us working together that will make the results doubly gratifying.

One club I know is planning a card party and sale of small plants - the proceeds of which are to go to this fund. Mark your checks for the Research Fund and make them payable to the Society - you may send them to me or to our treasurer, Mr. Warren Gottshall.

Remember, please, that this is your Society, and your officers and staff are desirous of carrying out your wishes and will welcome your suggestions.

Sincerely,

*Myrtle Radtke*



# SPECIES NOMENCLATURE OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET

Harvey Cox, Calif. and Evan Roberts, Mich.



S. GROTEI

Photograph by Brian Perkins

One of the reasons why there is a need for scientific names is that different common names are applied to the same kind of plant in different countries. For example, in Germany the African violet is called "Das violette Usambara".

Even in different parts of the same country a plant may have more than one common name. There are three common English names for *Saintpaulia ionantha*. "Usambara Violet", "African Violet", and "East African Violet". The name African violet may not be understood by a French Canadian who doesn't understand English.

Scientific names also are necessary to standardize and express plant knowledge so that it can be made available. These names consist of two parts -- a genus and a species. The first name always is capitalized and the second is never capitalized, according to modern agreement. Most genera and species names are from Greek or Latin. They often are descriptive of traits or places, or commemorate people.

The species is the basic unit in the classification of an organism. It is a group of individuals of the same ancestry, of similar structure and behavior, and of stability in nature. The members of a species retain their characteristic features through many generations under natural conditions. If plants from a single species are self-pollinated their offspring will be like their parents. A genus is a collection of closely-related species. The collection of species comprising the genera have certain common major characteristics but differ in minor ways.

*Saintpaulia ionantha*. The first species was discovered by the Imperial District Captain of Usambara, East Africa. He sent plants or seeds to his father, Mr. Saint Paul-Illaire, Lord Chamberlain, retired, of Fischbach, Silesia, Germany. The elder Saint Paul-Illaire was very interested in this plant and took examples of it to Herman Wendland, Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Herrenhausen (Hanover). Mr. Wendland described the plant in Latin and named the genus *Saintpaulia* for the Saint Paul-Illaire family. He gave

it the species name of *ionantha* which means, "with flowers like the violet". Other species have been discovered since. *S. ionantha* was first described in 1893.

The newer species are: *Saintpaulia grotei*, *Saintpaulia orbicularis*, *Saintpaulia pusilla*, *Saintpaulia goetzeana*, *Saintpaulia diplotricha* and *Saintpaulia tongwensis* ("others have been discovered but they have not been described"). All plants and animals are named this way. The different kinds of African violets existing in nature are the different species as mentioned above. A species may be further divided into varieties. Our present day varieties of African violets probably are descendants from at least two species, *Saintpaulia ionantha* and *Saintpaulia diplotricha*.

As no known records have been kept it is impossible to tell by existing varieties, if they are a hybrid between two species or variants within the species. A variety which is not known to have originated from a species should be listed by the generic name *Saintpaulia*, and then the word variety and the variety name. For example, *Saintpaulia* variety Blue Boy or *Saintpaulia* variety duPont Blue. For briefness the variety names need only be mentioned with the understanding they belong to the genus *Saintpaulia*. This type of nomenclature fits the present variety classification of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., with only minor changes. The species *Saintpaulia ionantha* will have to be listed by its full name (not just *ionantha*). *Kewensis* will have to be listed as *Saintpaulia diplotricha* (*Saintpaulia Kewensis* is syn. with *Saintpaulia ionantha*) according to Mr. B. L. Burtt of Surrey, England, who has made a botanical study of these kinds.

Probably one of the most interesting of the species of *Saintpaulia* is *Saintpaulia*

*grotei*, Engl. (see photograph). It was first described in Latin by Professor A. Engler of Berlin in the *Botanische Jahrbucher*, Volume 57, Pages 201-203 in 1921. Under cultivation it has become slightly larger because of more favorable environmental conditions. This is especially true when it is grown in the greenhouse or in the home and is applicable to the other species as well.

The main features that distinguish it from *Saintpaulia ionantha* are the presence of stems and its almost round dentate leaves. It has creeping brown stems which sometime root at the nodes. Two of these stems can be seen in the photograph. They are shown turning down over the rim of the pot; one at the left and one at the right of the picture. The medium green leaves are almost flat, being from 1-3½ inches long by 1-3½ inches wide. Sometimes small "pockets" or depressions appear between the veins. These are shown on some of the leaves in the photograph. The leaf stems grow to 10 inches in length. Flowers are blue-violet near the tips of the petals. This color shades to a darker blue-violet toward the center of the flower (B.V. 5 to B.V. 2). The flowers are produced in clusters of two, sometimes three. Seed pods are over an inch in length.

"The best native plants of this species are found in the vicinity of Amani, Tanganyika, Territory at an altitude of 3,000 feet. There they are located in dense shade near running water. However its roots are not submerged in water but have perfect drainage which is necessary for all the species".

The chromosome number of *Saintpaulia grotei* is  $2n = 30$ .

The next issue will contain an article on the species *Saintpaulia tongwensis*.

## FAILURE AND SUCCESS

Mardie Eckhardt, Md.

If you are an expert, this is not for you. But if you have tried and tried to grow African violets without success then maybe this will help.

I wanted to grow them from seed, so I pollinated some of my plants. The crosses took fine, but in 4 or 5 months the pods drooped, so I pulled them off and threw them away. I did not know that I should have dried the pod. I thought they were rotten, so I decided to buy seed.

The seed arrived with directions, which I followed, but after three weeks, no seedlings. An acquaintance said the seed was too old if it did not come up in ten days, so again I threw the mica, seed and all out.

By this time I was real cross with myself! Why couldn't I grow them if others could? I decided there must be something wrong with my method. I had some more seed of my own crosses and so decided to

try again, being careful in the planting and watering. Still no luck! At last I hit upon the idea of trying them in different lights. I tried the East window, but still no good, as a tree gave too much shade. Then I tried a South window, shaded by a thin net curtain. You can imagine my surprise and delight one morning to see a little green sprout, and day by day, more and more. I had only put the glass on at night as the nights were cool, but in the hot weather it would not be needed at all.

I believe a strong light is most necessary, and heat is essential too. I put all my plantings in the same exposure, but I think a strong North light would be as good.

So if you have failed before, try again. You know the old saying, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again".



# THE FIRST COMMERCIAL AFRICAN VIOLET GROWER

Evan Roberts, Mich.

Friedrich Benary of the seed-house Ernst Benary of Erfurt, Germany was the first commercial plantsman to offer the seeds of *Saintpaulia* to the world. Mr. Hermann Wendland, who described *Saintpaulia ionantha* for Hofmarschal Baron Walter von Saintpaul-Illaire, wrote that ownership rights were sold to the firm Ernst Benary in 1893. Mr. Friedrich Benary was head of the concern at the time.

Mr. Friedrich Benary foresaw the value of the African violet plant and purchased it for seed production and distribution. A red-violet flowered variety was first announced by Mr. Benary in 1898. He offered a white variety called "alba", and developed other varieties designated as "atrocoerulea", and "purpurea".

Friedrich Benary, eldest son of Ernst Benary, was born on January 4th, 1850 and died July 11th, 1917. He received his horticultural training from Louis van Houtte at Ghent, Belgium and worked in other establishments in Germany, Great Britain and France. After the war of 1871 he became partners with his father Ernst Benary who started the firm in 1843. When his father died, Friedrich went into partnership with his younger brother John. The seed-concern bred and sold the choicest flower and vegetable seeds to all countries of the world.

Under Friedrich Benary's management the business was successfully built up and became well known in the international flower-seed trade. Mr. Benary was a regular visitor to the United States and he was highly respected by his friends. He was recognized as an authority of horticulture and frequently honored by



Friedrich Benary

invitations to judge horticultural congresses and exhibitions.

The son of Friedrich Benary, Mr. Ernst Benary, and a grandson now manage the firm. The present Mr. Ernst Benary is now offering a dark blue, an amaranth red and a light blue, heartshaped leaved variety to the trade.

---

## ANNOUNCING - POPULAR GARDENING

Paul F. Frese, formerly editor of Flower Grower Magazine, C. M. Winchester, Jr., and Frank A. Hodges, Jr., announce the publishing of a new garden magazine titled "POPULAR GARDENING."

Mr. Frese will be editor, Mr. Hodges advertising manager, and Mr. Winchester

will be publisher with executive offices at 24 James Street, Albany, N. Y.

The editorial and advertising offices will be at 141 East 44th Street, New York 17, N. Y.

The first issue will appear about February 20, 1950.



## LET'S VISIT

Let's visit with a commercial grower this time - the Tinaris, Frank and Anne. We made the trip by automobile and strongly advise that, if possible, you do likewise. The countryside about Bethayres is beautiful and well worth a look-see. Our tour was something of an accident as it was a "time-spender". Frank and Anne were expecting us, but we thought that we should at least give them time to get some of their work out of the way before we monopolized all their time.

After a phone call, advising that we would not arrive until after lunch, we set out with a mutual friend. Our further advice is that you also do your sight-seeing before arriving at the Tinari Floral Gardens - for once you arrive there you will be unable to break away.

We were greeted like long lost friends. Of course we had known Anne personally for a long time - since the first convention in Atlanta, but had not had previously the pleasure of meeting Frank. While making our noisy greetings we backed Frank in the direction of the greenhouses. Anne was completing the wants of a customer. It is quite possible that the customer thought we had escaped from somewhere, or were at least about to "hold-up" the joint, for she caught up her box and beat a hasty retreat. We, at this time, gave a desultory glance about this entrance room where African violet supplies, insecticides, fertilizers, etc., are displayed. Some time

later we further realized that this was also their "packing shed". We were too busy backing both Frank and Anne toward the first greenhouse to pay too much attention to our immediate surroundings.

If you have never been into a commercial greenhouse with benches laden with blooming plants, we know you cannot imagine the sight that confronted us. It is like a sea with waves of different colors and hues stretching to the far glass wall. You are conscious of all the color, but when you enter the Tinari greenhouses, your first impression is of the spic-and-span cleanliness of the place. The walks are freshly washed (providing additional humidity, of course); the foliage is clear and sparkling. It was such a radical change from our own living rooms where we have so many plants that we cannot get around with the dust cloth, or have time to work on our own foliage with hose or water spray. In our tour of all the houses we did not see a single discarded leaf on the floor.

The subject of "bugs" always arises when visiting a greenhouse, for no matter how particular the owner is about his own plants, there will always be visitors, with cyclamen infested plants at home, who come and paw over the stock. Optox is generally used by the Tinari Floral Gardens with frequent fumigations with cyanogas - and lately with parathion. Cyanogas, we know, is deadly and not for use except by an



expert. Parathion also gave us the shudders and Anne agreed with us.

"It always worries me when I know Frank is going to use parathion".

Frank laughingly remarked, "She always stands outside the door and wrings her hands. But it really is nothing to play with and most certainly should not be used in any greenhouse attached to your home". He then painstakingly furnished us the following information and precautions:—

"We use the Parathion Bomb for control of cyclamen mite. The complete cycle of development of mite from egg to adult takes from 6 to 8 days, going through larvæ and resting stages. It should be applied and repeated until complete control is assured. The bomb is not a toy and the person who is doing the application should be cautioned. These precautions are necessary:

The operator must be completely covered, rubber gloves, rubberized coat, hat, and approved gas mask.

The houses should be closed for at least 15 minutes before application and the fumes left in from 2 to 4 hours after application.

Temperatures of 75-90 degrees are best. The bomb should be weighed before and after using, unless an entire bomb is used in one application.

The bomb should be warmed to 70-80 degrees before using.

The bomb should be carried upside down in a sling, since the propulsion gas (methyl chloride) is heavier than air.

The operator should walk at the rate of 100 feet per minute.

It takes about 11 minutes for an average bomb which will do 20,000 cubic feet of space.

The operator should move forward.

The applicator should be moved back and forth.

Upon completion of fumigation the operator should wear a mask while opening vents.

The fumigation can be done either during the day or night".

Another house, considered Frank's workhouse, is closed to visitors. It contains his seedlings and we certainly wish we could tell you of the originations contained therein that will before long be on our list of "must-haves". However, as the plants are still in the process of "testing", or the first round of propagation, and to keep you from drooling as we did, and the Tinari's from being plagued with requests for varieties they are still unable to supply, we can only suggest that you keep a close eye on the future catalogs of these growers.

Let us stretch a point and whisper a few introductions that we believe will be released this spring in limited quantities.

First of all there will be Tinari's Mammoth Blue. This variety has extremely large foliage and flowers which are also a beautiful blue. Tinari's Amazon Blue Eyes is bound to top your list of "must-haves" for it is a "supreme" type of their famous Blue Eyes with the same lovely color in a large bloom. There is also the Double Mentor Boy which needs no description except to say that it carries the same dependable Mentor Boy foliage plus grand sized double blooms of the same reddish-purple color.

Fall of 1950 should bring forth some of their other doubles with really swell - and readily recognizable - foliage, in that they are mainly double varieties of already famous varieties. We believe that they are the first doubles that appear over truly lovely leaves. As an extra confidence, we want to tell you that the fall season will probably be ushered in with the introduction of their most beautiful seedling to date, i. e. "America". Really a "dilly" with leaves similar to the duPont types but of erect growth. It is an excellent bloomer with large cupped flowers of light blue, comparable to Blue Eyes but really huge in size. Really a marvelous companion to their Mammoth Blue. Enough said. You will have to wait for the other varieties.

We even went to inspect the "boiler room" while Anne left to see how the eldest daughter was coming along with dinner. The children (three of them) had returned from school hours ago and after dutifully paying their "respects" went about their "business". Here you realize, are three of the nicest, well-reared children you will ever have the pleasure of meeting.

This boiler room, we believe, contains three large stoves, two of coal and one auxiliary of oil. One cannot but help feel confident that the most severe of winters is well provided for.

Behind this is their "soil sterilization pit" - a concrete bin, 5 ft. wide, 15 ft. long and 7 ft. wide. The soil mixture is put into it to a depth of one foot. Every square foot is injected with Chlorpicrin and Ethylene Dibromide. Upon completion of the injections it is wetted down and covered with canvas. The operation is completed until the bin is a full 5 ft. thick. A full face mask is even worn during this procedure. The purpose of the canvas covers is to prevent the gas from escaping and also so that a layer at a time can be used. This fumigation needs but five days to accomplish its purpose, but the Tinari's usually keep on the covers for a month. A thorough airing is necessary before the soil can be used. Frank also advised that the work is best accomplished at temperatures of 70 degrees or over.

Helen Van Pelt Wilson, in her book "The African Violet", remarked that when she entered a greenhouse she had an urge

to ask the owner for a paper bag so she could gather up old leaves and blooms. We did not have this inclination at the Tinari's. Our only desire was for a small piano box - "grand" size - so we could surreptitiously purloin a plant or two that caught our fancy. Fortunately we have never fallen to theft - we beg what we want, or pay for it, if necessary.

No matter how painstaking you are, you are sure to miss many of the fine varieties. You are, on the other hand, conscious that here you find the very best and recognized varieties. Anne Tinari is very particular and most conscientious about correct nomenclature for the varieties that they do propagate.

It is rather difficult at a later date to relive a very pleasant experience, simply because there is usually so much of it that only a confusion of high-lights remain. This is our experience when trying to retell our visit. The first thing on our left, with this particular visit, was, we believe, the bench containing plants of Plum Satin and next their propagating stock of MacFarland's Blue Warrior. Both are tops in our estimation and merit the best position in our windows at home. The clean, satiny foliage of both is a joy indeed; but then perhaps you, like we, have a preference for dark foliage. Perhaps, after all, the first variety was the Tinari's own introduction - Blue Eyes. We feel that everyone has this lovely, clear blue variety so it needs no description. If you do not, then you are sure to come away from the Tinari Floral Gardens with one in your box. Their supply of Lady Geneva is among the finest anywhere.

The propagating house is another joy to behold. You are amazed at the great number of leaves that can be placed in a bench—row after neat, close-packed row, like a parade of soldiers in close formation. You also notice that each variety is separated by a single row of Ruffles leaves, because of their distinctiveness and the fact that they propagate like weeds. In here also are the newer varieties - strictly under propagation and not yet for sale, due to a very limited quantity.

One house contained a bench full of Frank's duPont Lavender- Pink seedlings, that in our opinion, were very beautiful. Some of them were as pale as West Coast Amethyst and had flat, large, round leaves. We were curious to know what would become of them. "We will probably try to dispose of them in the holiday gift trade" Frank informed us. "But why? Some of them are very beautiful and definitely much lighter than the Lavender-Pink duPont". The fact remained, in his opinion, that they were still just lavender-pinks and therefore undeserving of names. We would have been quite content to slip the entire lot into our "piano box".

Just about this time, you are faced with the proof that Saintpaulias are really

of EASY culture. We did not give the spectacle a thought as we merely had the idea that the walls, beneath the glass, were made of cement block and that African violets were planted in the holes of the blocks. "Why are they planted in there?" we inquired. In reply, Frank leaned over a bench and lifted the plant up for our inspection - no pot, no soil, and merely a solid cement wall for it to rest on. "Do it again" we demanded in disbelief. The next one did not come away as it had grown fast to the cement. The third plant did. There were dozens of them and in full bloom. "How long have they been there?" we inquired, still skeptical.

Frank's "Since they were a leaf cutting", did not suffice. We demanded a further and truthful explanation.

"It is really a fact. The children frequently take up a handful of wet sphagnum moss, slap it on the ledge and stick a leaf into it".

"And that is all?"

"That is all".

"Now listen", we counter-attack. "We know that Saintpaulias are not orchids. On what do these plants live?"

"I guess the only secret is that we water all our plants with fertilizers and using a hose they naturally get some of it".

We had always been curious to know how commercial houses did fertilize all their plants and had imagined it was done by flooding the benches with the solution. Applying it with a hose was beyond our comprehension. Frank explained that their hose had a "contraption" attached that mixed the fertilizer from a separate receptacle. "But how do you keep it from getting on the foliage?" was our next question.

"We don't. We just connect the hose and water everything".

As they use Hyponex, alternated with Proliferol, we were amazed that it did not burn the foliage. We were always of the opinion that the burns on our own leaves were the result of our drippy watering can.

On the side of one wall there is another plant growing - no sphagnum this time, as there is no way to hold it there. The roots are spread out over the wall like those of wall ivy. No one knows how it got there and it is only the clinging tenacity of the roots that keep it growing there. The natural conclusion of all this is that we do not raise our own plants properly. We should "slap" a handful of sphagnum on our window-sills and stick in a leaf. (Why not baskets, or pots of sphagnum for our plants? We know that they will grow in plain vermiculite with occasional feedings - and OH JOY, no nematodes!)

Cont. bottom next page



# DECORATING WITH AFRICAN VIOLETS

Lois Russell, S. C.

I like flowers so well that they are a part of my life. I need them to live with indoors as well as out. When one enters a room where violets are grown, they really speak out a welcome of good cheer that can't be missed or misunderstood.

Husbands may often complain about unsightly house plants, but they need not complain about the friendly little house guests, the African violets, because their presence is not only a source of pleasure to me, but to everyone growing them. Their colors lend beauty and charm to the duller of rooms. They may be used in numerous decorations. A meal is brighter with the shade of African violets that fits in with the color scheme; and as a luncheon arrangement, a grouping of Saintpaulias combining an assortment of light and dark hues gives a most pleasing effect. Conversation never lags, as the subject of African violets goes on and on.

This same principle is effective in placing several pots in a stand, selecting those with complimentary shades.

What could cheer up a sick friend more than a pot of blooming violets which will be a source of pleasure for many months?

They also prove to be ideal gifts for bridge prizes. Any guest of honor should be thrilled to receive a violet, too.

Since the Saintpaulia betokens modesty and purity, what flower could be more appropriate than white violets used for Easter?

Some time ago, I saw such an exquisite arrangement done on an old fashioned glass cake stand. The small blooming plants in shades of delicate flesh, pink and soft light blues were built up in a pyramid shape and a pot of white violets was in the top of the pyramid. It looked like a tiered cake. White lace paper doilies were twisted into pretty rosettes and stuck in between pots. This was a very attractive and clever way to keep the pots from showing. Another arrangement that caught my eye was a large red satin heart, lace trimmed. Where the heart was pierced with a golden arrow a white African violet was placed in the hole in one side of the heart and a ruffle of white lace edged the pot. This was used for a Valentine decoration. It was a master piece, if ever I saw one.

For a wedding and reception, what could be prettier than white African violets used for the table decorations, along with the wedding cake? Think how the guests will rave when they make their way to the gift room and behold the picture that no artist could paint of dainty light blues, and soft shades of pink, and orchid used in the windows and on the shelves and tables where gifts are displayed. The guests will be so taken with the violets used as decorations, they will forget to look at the presents.

So you see, there is no limit to the many ways African violets may be used by a clever and artistic person.

---

## LETS VISIT CONTINUED

Over a mountain of spaghetti at the dinner table we continued our talk of Saintpaulias, their possibilities and future, and we came to the conclusion that the surface of the development has merely been scratched. Both Frank and Anne are of the opinion that the next ten to twenty years will present variations not dreamed of at the moment. We discussed the National Society (over roast chicken with all the "trimmin's" that was provided after we had foolishly stuffed ourselves with spaghetti). We, like all the other members, had thousands of ideas and suggestions for the Society's betterment and/or advancement. Also, like all other members, we kept all these things under our separate hats and never forwarded the ideas or suggestions to the officers so that some consideration could be taken of them!

We also talked more "bugs". "If only everyone would use at least a good insecticide, or two," Anne exclaimed. "Practically everyone with a collection of violets has, at one time or another, bought an insecticide. They use it once or twice, at most, then store it away in a closet. When they do get an insect infestation they are worried sick. If only they would get in

the habit of regular sprayings and realize that it is far better to use an insecticide as a preventive measure rather than as a cure". She was honestly and genuinely concerned.

Practically too late we realized that we had but ten minutes to catch the last train. Anne flew about the house emptying her vases of flowers to present to us. Frank dashed off to the greenhouses to gather up and pack our plants. The station wagon was backed out and we hopped inside while it was in motion - we think. The train whistle was blowing for the departure while we were a block from the station. Frank placed the heel of one hand on the horn button and kept it there while we woke up the town of Bethayres. The train waited but the "stinker" of a conductor charged us an extra fee simply because we had no tickets and had to pay our fare in cash.

We settled back with a sigh and the realization that the Tinaris are among the nicest people in the world and their greenhouses a beautiful dream that we simply must revisit.

"THE VISITORS"

# PAUL ROCKELMANN AND THE FRINGETTE SERIES

Regina and Warren Gottshall, Va.

For years Fischer's Greenhouses, of Linwood and Atlantic City, have been well known for their thousands of azaleas and lilies, and the millions of beautiful cut flowers that decorate most of the famous hotels and many of the homes in their section of New Jersey. Recently they have become equally as popular with collectors and raisers of Saintpaulias. This latter fame resulted, mostly, because of their beautiful double blooms and their now popular My Lady Series. However, few people know that behind this beautiful setting of African violets stands a shy, modest hybridizer with a special love for our favorite houseplant. This man is Paul Rockelmann.

Several years ago, Mr. Rockelmann was presented, by a friend, with a few African violets. A mutual appreciation immediately came to life between the man and the plants. A few square feet of bench space in one of the Fischer greenhouses was purloined so Paul Rockelmann could admire his gifts while he worked among the thousands of other plants under propagation. The habit and urge of the hybridizer soon found the man "messaging around" with the blooms of the gifts. Little is known of the success or failures of these first, and subsequent crosses; nor what improvements on the then known few existing varieties, found their way into discard. Fortunately a plant with double blooms was developed. The few square feet became an entire bench and work was begun in earnest on the part of Paul Rockelmann - even though considered "Paul's plaything" by the greenhouse staff in general.

The original double-flowered plant was propagated and recrossed onto plant after plant until a range of color from pale lavender, through the orchids to the purples, was developed. This work became an unintentional secret until there were several greenhouses blooming with double-flowered Saintpaulias - simply because the African violet was not considered seriously by the owner and personnel. The fact that Mr. Rockelmann is never convinced that he has achieved anything outstanding also contributed nothing to the publicity of these creations. There is still a feeling of failure in the mind of Paul Rockelmann because he has not, to date, developed a double white or pink. Nor is he satisfied that one of his productions carries multi-petaled flowers measuring one and three-quarters inches in diameter.



Paul Rockelmann

Only one of these double varieties was given a name - Double Margaret (a beautiful deep purple of nice proportions and with waved and nicely crenate margins on the leaves). Regardless of this fact, they appear on other price lists as Fischer's Masterpiece or Fischer's Creation. The others were merely designated as Double Dark Lavender Selections, Double Light Lavender Selections, and Double Light Blue Selections.

Three nice whites were also developed and named White Water Lily, Snow Queen and White Pixie; but it is the Snow Queen that is by far the loveliest of the three, and White Pixie the most unusual with its long slender leaves - the edges of which all curl downward.

Orchid Prince, Blue Moon and Fischer's Giant Red Lavender were also originated. The latter, however, is a misnomer, as lavender is never red but shows a predominance of blue - which the "Giant" certainly does not. It is a beautiful, nearly maroon, that holds its color very well on long stems over the coarse stiff foliage.

The My Lady Series needs little introduction at this late date and all of us have our own favorites among them - but, My Lady Carol has such lovely young leaves with their sharply saw-toothed edges. My Lady Sue is a large beautiful dark red-orchid while My Lady Lorraine wears a dress of light orchid. My Lady Marion waves the lightest blue banners and My Lady Frances, with good exposure, displays her's of a very dark reddish-purple. My Lady Joan is the one that carries the least "girl-like" foliage.





All of these varieties are but a mere preamble to Paul Rockelmann's newest and most beautiful creations - the "Fringette Series".

It has always been the "bugaboo" of all commercial growers of Saintpaulias that the florists have never been educated to any other varieties outside Blue Boy, Pink Beauty, White Lady and an occasional Blue Girl. Florists overlook the "Collector Market" completely and appear content with the hospital and Mother's Day trade. Predictions for the future indicate that the florists will awaken when they become acquainted with one of the outstanding virtues of the "Fringettes". Having "double" blood in them they have also inherited one of the double characteristics. They do not shed their blooms but must, rather, be pinched off when faded. This single fact makes them perfect "gift" plants because of their long "bloomability". On the other hand, hybridizers will drool over them because of the possibility of breeding this characteristic into their own resulting seedlings.

Rumor of the "fringed" blooms has been prevalent for quite some time, but they must really be seen to be actually imagined and appreciated - the written word or photographs do them little justice. One enters the greenhouses at Linwood and is enthralled by the thousands of plants in full bloom and is barely able to move from one plant to another. There is just too much to be seen and each following variety seems more lovely than its predecessor. You have forgotten the "fringed" rumor as you move from bench to bench. It is only when you become conscious of the "crick" in your neck from looking downward and raise your head for relief that

you become conscious of the sight of the plants on the shelves parallel with your eyes. You cannot believe it at first. Finally it dawns upon you that the "rumor" is an actuality. The plants are large and simply laden with bloom of beautiful tints but the margins of the petals seem unbelievable. Lady Geneva has met her rivals. Fringettes are more than that for the narrow margin is not only fringed, or lacerated, but also deeply crinkled like finely ruffled crepe-paper. You no longer see the other Saintpaulias in any of the greenhouses, even though in one obscure corner there is a plant with round blooms of broadly overlapping, reddish-purple petals - the texture, or feel of which is like starched velvet. It is hoped that this variety will soon find its way to our own shelves.

You turn to Paul Rockelmann with stars in your eyes but no voice in your throat for several seconds. Finally your lips whisper "They are the most beautiful things I have ever seen". Paul blushes shyly and asks, "Do you really think they are any good?" You are introduced to the little boy in Paul Rockelmann.

Mr. Rockelmann is a slight, blonde young chap who looks like anyone's young brother of about twenty-one years of age. It is only when you understand his responsibility with Fischer's for the thousands of azaleas, lilies, etc., the "umteen" greenhouses; his zest and finesse in developing fine Saintpaulias, that the truth of his thirty-odd years is forced upon you.

You tell Paul Rockelmann that in your opinion the Fringettes are "the final development in African violets". You see the doubt and disbelief in his expression



and realize that you are wrong, that he has merely scratched the surface of the Saintpaulia future; that his doubts derive from the fact that, from his own admission, he has little knowledge of the African violet varieties existing outside the greenhouses at Linwood. Only weeks later do you realize that Paul's energies have probably been spent in mainly developing blooms - some of the varieties lack distinguishing variations of foliage. When Paul broadens the scope of his energies to combine foliage and bloom, then the finest varieties of the future will also come from his hands.

Seven distinct hues are to be had in the Fringette Series, including a very dark "blue" and a pure white. There is no true pink as yet. Perhaps you have a preference for a particular shade. Per-

haps you try to decide which of the seven is your favorite: the very pale lavender (of the delicate shade of Jessie-West Coast Amethyst), of the beautiful dark lavender with its hidden lights, or the glistening white (Purity). You will finally realize that, while each is a real beauty, perfection is achieved only in the possession of the complete series.

Bloom sizes are about average with possibly the exception of the white which is slightly smaller than the other six. The size of the individual flowers is over-balanced by the fact that they are such prolific bloomers and the addition of their tenacity to "hang on" presents a pot-full of bloom at all times.

Actually the foliage is nothing radical to shout about, but it is rather pleasing, nevertheless. There is quite a similarity between the leaves of the Fringettes and those of Double Margaret, in that both are quite waved, or bent, with short even crenations. It is as though the ruffling is carried out through the entire plant.

The plants deserve very distinguishing names. It is unfortunate that they are to be released merely under the designation of a descriptive adjective and only further individualized by color. Any one could do better by them than that! The model of perfection in all our lives is, or has been, our mother. What then but to honor the Fringette Series with names like Madonna Celeste, Madonna Angelica, etc. It is rather unfortunate that the amateur hybridizer can dream up such exotic names as Painted Ballerina, Hearts Desire, etc., while the commercials give us Giant Blue and Giant Red Lavender. However, and to misquote Shakespeare, "A name! A name! What's in a name? A violet by any other name would be as beautiful".

## YOUR HINT HUNTER

Phyllis Ferrall  
Rt. 5, Box 551  
Battle Creek, Mich.

Mrs. Winifred Clements tells us,

"Though my plants looked good last winter, I had very few blooms. After thinking the situation over carefully, I decided that possibly there could be two reasons for this difficulty. One could be insufficient light and the other low humidity.

After reading an article put out by the Sugar Research Foundation Inc., 52 Wall Street, New York 5, N. Y., I decided to try the sugar spray in an attempt to correct my light problem. Here is the method I have been following. To  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of luke warm water, add 3 level teaspoons of granulated sugar, and a few drops of a liquid soap shampoo as a

spread. Use in a small hand (mist) sprayer and spray your African violets with the solution once each week.

With this same small hand spray, I have raised the humidity in the room also. Using only clear luke warm water, I spray through the air over my plants several times a day.

A little rotation feeding has helped a great deal too. For the 1st week weak manure water, 2nd week Hyponex, and 3rd week Super Phosphate. Works well!!!

My reward? All large plants are in bloom or in bud, and the small ones are showing buds. So I feel I can unhesitatingly recommend the procedure I am following", says Mrs. Clements.



## ACHIMENES

(ah-kim'e-neeZ)

(Greek, meaning to suffer from cold)

Louise F. Smouse, Tenn.

Photos by Robin

Another cousin of our African violet with which many of you are no doubt familiar without knowing it belongs to the Gesneriaceae family, is the Achimenes, or "monkey-face" plant.

Bailey's Cyclopedia tells us there are about forty varieties of this herbaceous plant from tropical America, Mexico and Guatemala. However, we in the United States grow only a few of them, mostly the newer hybrids.



This variety of Achimenes has handsome dark foliage and a soft medium blue lavender blossom.



A white Achimenes with deep lavender markings at the throat.

We have grown the deep lavender, pink and white varieties. Started in Tennessee in February or March in African violet soil, the small scaly rhizomes are planted horizontally, covered to about one inch. Watered with warm water, they are moved to light shade on the porch in warm weather, where they come to bloom in early summer and continue until frost. Then they are allowed to rest in a cool dry cellar until spring again. Also, they are particularly adapted to warm house culture.

Achimenes' velvet-like leaves are opposite, serrated or toothed, often reddish beneath. The flowers are borne in the axils of the leaves. Blossoms range from pure white through lilac-veined white, light pinks and lavenders, rose and deep lavender.

When buds show, water with manure water weekly, but avoid commercial fertilizers. Do not over-water, but should your plants suffer a single drying, they may be ruined.

---

## SOMETHING NEW



Miss Littig

We are planning on having a "Readers' Question and Answer Box" on our problems in raising African violets — a sort of little Golden Rule corner where "we help others as we'd like them to help us".

If you have a problem, write us a letter about it. We will then publish these questions, and ask our readers who have had a similar problem and solved it, to tell us of their experience. In this way, each issue will have new questions, and the answers to the inquiries published in the previous issue.

We believe this will be interesting and helpful to all of us.

Now let us have your questions.

Laura E. Littig      3016 Jefferson Ave.

Davenport, Iowa.

# THE EARTHART PLANT RESEARCH LABORATORY, CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

Clarissa Harris

The Earhart Plant Research Laboratory is the only one of its kind in the world and is a very unique series of glasshouses built in a most attractive manner. From the exterior, one would never think that this attractive modern building houses a glasshouse.

After the dedication of the Earhart Plant Laboratory, June 7, 1949, Dr. F. W. Went, Professor of Plant Pathology at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, extended an invitation to the public to view these glasshouses and learn something of the possibilities the Laboratory has to offer the plant world. Dr. Went gave a most instructive talk as to the structure and objectives of this Laboratory. He also explained that after the plant is placed into operation, no one will be admitted other than those doing the scientific work, for most careful care must be exercised to protect against insects and diseases. Here the plants must be given the best of care, so the exacting work may be accomplished. Here all guesswork in the growing of plants is to be eliminated.

Talking to different groups, he tried to give some information on previous findings by his department on plants. As to the African violet, he advised that here was a plant that could be kept at an even temperature for best results and that it will take a much higher night temperature than most people give it. An even temperature of not lower than 60 degrees at night and over 75 to 80 degrees during the day will produce better plants, more flowering and longer periods of bloom. (The Society is promised a report on his findings in the near future).

The building is constructed with a special floor that allows air-conditioning throughout. There are six glasshouses with natural lighting and each of these is shaded by a constant flow of water evenly distributed over the glass. The flow of water over the glass eliminates the infrared rays of the sun which cause burning, and at the same time keeps the glass cool, which is usually one of the handicaps in the use of glasshouses.

Besides these glasshouses, there are innumerable rooms artificially lighted. Fluorescent lighting tubes are installed, but in a few instances they are experimenting with incandescent bulbs. Special Climatic rooms are provided such as a Wind room, Rain rooms, Fog rooms, rooms with Gas content in the Air, Low Humidity rooms and Radio-active rooms, all governed by a central control room.

This Control Room is the office of the Superintendent, and the walls are covered with immense panels of controls for every part of the Greenhouses. The heat, humidity, temperature, etc. may be changed and controlled by the flick of a switch.

At the rear entrance is a large preparatory area where fumigation, sterilization, and spraying take place. Personnel, plants and all materials must pass through this area before entering the glasshouses proper.

In a personal interview with Dr. Went, he advised that soil will not be used, for the bacterial content could never be reproduced, that gravel, sand, vermiculite or sponge rock will be used as a growing medium, and that the plants will be fed exclusively by proper nutrient solutions. For further perfection, a large de-ionizing plant is installed for the purpose of removing all salts from the water. The air is to be sterilized and no windows opened. This is mentioned to show the extent to which the university is going to keep everything free from pests.

There are harvesting and drying rooms, as well as an elaborate photographic and research laboratory.

At the close of the interview, Dr. Went made the following remarks:

"When this laboratory is completed, we will be able to get results that will give a much better understanding of the HOW and WHY of plant growth. If you know that, a number of things are simple to work out, so we are especially after the basic principles.

We have some other possibilities. At the moment, there is a plant that contains a powerful drug and suddenly a great chemicals was developed from this plant which never had been grown before as a crop. We do not know what it needs in the way of climate and treatment. Instead of trying this plant out in many parts of the country, perhaps getting a lot of failures, we are trying this now in the Earhart Plant Research Laboratory and can tell in a very short time what the plant actually requires in treatment and plant growth.

The space here in this laboratory is quite unique and is available, as far as space allows, for work with other plants. For this service, a charge is made which makes it possible to operate the laboratory. Several organizations have already availed themselves of this service, among them the Sugar Beet Growers, the Forestry Service and the County Air Pollution Service".





Looking at the Main Entrance of the Earhart Plant Research Laboratory at California Institute of Technology.

The Rear Entrance showing one of the natural lighted glass houses with water flowing over. Also a group of containers being prepared for use in the work with the Sugar Beet. Cans sprayed with an enamel paint inside and out as a guard against metal contact.



Rear of building showing 130 feet of glass with water flowing over glass.

# PHILADELPHIA YOUR CONVENTION CITY

Esther E. Schadowald,  
Chairman 1950 Convention

May 12th and 13th, 1950, at the Bellevue Stratford in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is a date to be anticipated and planned for well in advance, so that your visit here may bring pleasant memories long after. Why not plan to arrive here a couple of days in advance of the Convention so that your trip may be a sort of Spring vacation? Membership in The African Violet Society of America includes an invitation to both husband and wife to attend the Convention this year, and May is the most beautiful month of the year in Philadelphia and surrounding country. The Highways and By-Ways are bedecked for spring with flowering trees and shrubs, and one cannot help but enjoy the everchanging richness and variety of "Penn's Woods".

Within walking distance of the Bellevue Stratford, one may visit Independence Hall, the home of the Liberty Bell, at 5th and Chestnut Streets. The Declaration Chamber, where the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 is in the same building. Traveling east to 320 Chestnut Street, one finds Carpenters Hall, where the First Continental Congress met in 1774. North on Second Street two blocks is Christ Church built in 1727. It's early congregation included George and Martha Washington, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris and Lafayette. The home of Betsy Ross is just around the corner at 239 Arch Street. It was here that Betsy Ross made the first American flag. From the north side of City Hall one may view the shaded lanes of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway leading to the Art Museum. Other points of interest include the Academy of Natural Sciences at 19th and the Parkway, the Aquarium along the Schuylkill River above Spring Garden Street, Fels Planetarium and Franklin Institute at 20th Street and the Parkway.

Before leaving Pennsylvania on your

trip home from the Convention, plan to visit a few of the inspiring points of interest listed below:

Valley Forge Park, including Washington's headquarters and the Valley Forge Memorial Church. If the season is right, the park drives will be lined with masses of flowering pink and white dogwood trees. Route 23 runs through the park.

Bowman's Hill State Wild Flower Preserve on Route 32 at Washington's Crossing. Here lies one hundred acres of woodland, where trails are marked and well planted with rare varieties of wild flowers native to the state of Pennsylvania.

Pennsbury was William Penn's summer home. It lies along the Delaware River near Tullytown which is on Route 13. A large well-planted Herb Garden adds to the beauty of this restful site. The trees are planted in avenues. William Penn lived here in 1700.

Route 611 winds through the Pocono Mountains starting at the Delaware Water Gap. Beautiful mountain country, with series of waterfalls, is a part of this trip.

A trip south on Route 1 will not be complete unless a stop is made at Longwood Gardens at Kennett Square. The grounds cover 900 acres. The main glass house covers an area of 18,000 square feet and is truly a garden under glass. The planting is beautifully arranged and thousands of flowering plants greet the visitor, the aroma of which is magnificent.

It is my earnest desire that each and every member of the African Violet Society enjoy every minute of the 1950 Convention in Philadelphia, and to this end, and with the help of my chairmen, I shall do my best to make this possible.

\*\*\*\*\*  
WHILE traveling through  
Rochester plan to  
stop and see our AFRICAN VIO-  
LETS. We have over 50 varieties.  
See them in SYCO BOWL pottery,  
green, red, white and blue colors.  
Open evenings and Sunday.

Take Culver Road, through Sea  
Breeze two miles to Vosburg Road.

JOHN R. GENT  
595 Vosburg Road Webster, N. Y.  
— — — We do not ship! — — —  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*



## HYPONEX

**GROWS**  
*Better PLANTS Quicker*

Simply dissolve and water your plants.  
Grows superior house plants, garden  
flowers or vegetables in any soil —  
even in sand or water. Clean — odorless  
— safe. Excellent for starting seedlings  
cuttings, transplants.

Large 16-oz can  
\$1 Postpaid ...  
Makes 100 gals.  
if dealer can't sup-  
ply, order direct.

**HYDROPONIC Chemical Co.**  
Copley, Ohio

GUARANTY OF A lifetime of money  
★  
Guaranteed by  
Good Housekeeping  
is now an advertisement

\*\*\*\*\*



# Fourth Annual Convention

May 12 and 13, 1950 — Bellevue Stratford

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

## *Program*

### MAY 12, FRIDAY

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon ..... Registration of Members  
Bellevue Stratford, Convention Headquarters

Mrs. R. J. Schadewald, Convention Chairman, Committee on Convention Registration, in charge.

This period from 9:00 to 12:00 Noon may be pleasantly utilized by members of the Society in the informal exchange of friendly greetings.

12:30 p.m. Luncheon Meeting ..... Rose Garden  
Mr. Floyd L. Johnson, Spencerport, N. Y., Presiding

Welcome to Philadelphia ..... Mrs. R. J. Schadewald

"Facts and Fancies About Saintpaulias" ..... Dr. John G. Seeley  
Professor of Floriculture, Penn. State College

3:00 p.m. Exhibit of African violets ..... North Garden  
(Open to members only)

6:30 p.m. Dinner Meeting for Members and Guests .... Rose Garden  
Mrs. Arthur Radtke, President, Presiding

"There's Another Side to the Saintpaulia Story" .... Mr. Paul F. Frese  
Editor of Popular Gardening

Mr. Frese will be introduced by Miss Helen Van Pelt Wilson, noted author of the book, "The African Violet"

Presentation of the Gold Medal Award ..... Mrs. Z. C. Layson

---

### MAY 13, SATURDAY

8:00 a.m. Breakfast Meeting ..... Rose Garden  
Mrs. R. R. Blackburn, High Point, North Carolina, Presiding

"Stump the Experts" ..... Quizzmaster Mrs. Bess Hardy  
Editor of Garden Chats Program, Station WHIO

Panel of Experts: Mr. Neil C. Miller, Mr. Boyce Edens, Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Mr. Floyd L. Johnson and Mr. William Carter.

10:30 a.m. "Show Preparation and Judging" ..... Mrs. James Carey  
Chairman of Show Staging Committee

12:30 p.m. Luncheon Meeting ..... Rose Garden  
Mrs. Arthur Radtke, President, Presiding

This is the Annual Business Meeting of the Membership of the Society. Officers for 1951 will be elected. The revised By-laws will be voted on. Reports from officers and Committees will be submitted and considered. All members are especially invited to attend this meeting and to take part in the proceedings. (Open to members only.)

# PLANT BREEDING

Violet Berry

**CAUSES OF DIFFERENCES:** There is a world wide difference in nature. No two living things are exactly alike for no two are born under the same circumstances. Every living thing has its own individuality. If you are a close observer, you will find differences between any two plants, two leaves of a plant, or two blooms on a plant. This certainly can be applied to our African Violets. If no two plants are alike, then one can understand why - now and then some variation, more noticeable than common, may be named and become a new variety.

Sex is one cause of variation. Also changes in the conditions in which violets grow cause other differences. Since physical surroundings may cause them to vary - we will consider what changes in plant life could cause nature to produce new forms.

1. Changes or Variation in Food Supply: Excess food supply is the greatest cause of variation in plants. Two horticultural philosophers, Thomas Andrew Knight and Darwin (and others who have studied it), agree that all excess of food above the amount normally or habitually received is one of the main causes of differences. Every farmer and gardener knows that the richer the soil in plant food, the stronger and the more unusual his product will be. Since excess of food supply causes variation, it naturally follows that cultivated plants should be the most variable. The first change which usually comes of liberal food supply is increase in bigness - this is quite important. If a plant once greatly changes in size - variation in shape and color will soon follow.

2. Climate: Using L. H. Bailey's book "Plant Breeding" as a source of study - I find the following information regarding the effect climate may have on plant life. Climate changes the stature of plants. They become dwarfed in high latitude and altitudes. Climate changes their form. They tend to be more broad-headed, and also more prostrate, in high latitudes and altitudes. Proportionate leafiness generally increases at the same time. There is often a gain in comparative fruitfulness following transfer towards the poles. The colors of the leaves and flowers are influenced by climate, there being a general tendency, in plants of temperate regions to increase in intensity of colors as they are carried toward the poles. There is variation in variability itself. I think this same thing can be applied to the Saintpaulia. The more difficult the climate in which a plant finds itself, the more it tends to vary to meet its unfriendly environment. In the far north, many plants are so changeable that the marks used to identify the Species in other latitudes are often lost.

The farther and more freely plants are distributed, the greater the differences, because they must adapt themselves to a wider range of conditions. Plant organism is plastic by nature and quickly responds to every touch of environment. The appearing of any one marked variation, therefore, is evidence that the plant has found a new condition. Even the simple change of seed from one locality to another generally gives a larger or better product or even more marked variation. The change is beneficial because it fits together plant characters and environments which are not in balance with each other. A plant which is grown for several years in one set of conditions becomes fitted into them, and is in a comparative state of rest - then it or its progeny is taken to other conditions, all the adjustments are broken up, and in fitting into new environment, new or strange characters are likely to appear.

Time and again, some person may introduce what he considers to be a distinct and new variety, only to find that other culturists dispute him and declare that it is only some old variety renamed. Isn't this the case of our Violets in a nutshell? And yet this person knows that he has not renamed an old variety, but that he has raised a form which appeared upon his own window-sill. So, it is apparent that, when we divide a plant into many parts and distribute it far and wide, there is possibility of variation.

The steps whereby a new species comes into existence are called mutations. Nature starts the work, man may complete it.

**HOME MADE HYBRIDS:** (As a reference on this subject, I suggest "Plant Breeding" by L. H. Bailey and "Partners of Nature" by Burbank).

Crossing is good for the Species, because it constantly revitalizes offspring with the strongest characters of the parents and also brings out new combinations. The further discussion of the subject deals with the extent to which crossing is possible and advisable.

If crossing is good for plant life, it is necessary to find out to what extent it can be carried. Does the good increase as the cross becomes more violent, or in other words, as the parents are more and more unlike? Or is there a limit beyond which it is not worth our time to go, or even possible?

We find that distinct species, as a rule, refuse to cross. Why is this? The main cause is the refusal of a plant to allow its ovules to be impregnated by the pollen of another plant. The pollen will not "take". Or the refusal may arise from the sterility of the cross. Again the cross may "take" and seeds be formed - and the seeds grow, but the plants which they produce may be wholly barren, sometimes even refusing to produce flowers, as well as seeds. The best results of crossing are obtained, as a rule, when the cross is made between different plants of the same variety or at farthest, between different individuals of the same species. In plain words, crosses between species are not often useful in



nature, and the more unlike the species the less useful will be the hybrids. Yet this is counter to Burbank's opinion. He was all for experimenting. For instance, "color" - he thought that all shades of colors could be produced in our flowers if the work is gone at systematically and persisted in long enough. Can we apply that theory to the elusive yellow in the Saint-paulia? Burbank said you can hardly fail to accomplish something. You are sure to be amazed at the assortment of blooms that appear on the offspring of your crossing. All that the plant-breeder can do is upset the heredity of his plants, bringing new strains and influences into the life stream. After that, Nature will carry on, and so the next step for the experimentalist is to select from Nature's offerings the ones that seem to him to go in the general direction he wants them to go. But amazing combinations many times appear. The plants seem to be so upset by the crossing that they scarcely know what they are about.

What plants are best fitted to survive?

Those which are most vigorous or most productive, or most hardy, or which have well marked character, or characteristics which distinguish them in strength from their fellows - these are the ones which we often desire to obtain. We constantly covet a new character, which will lead to a new and outstanding variety. The most important reason for a cross should be to infuse new strength or power into the offspring, to improve a plant rather than to create a new one. If a new one is created, it comes gradually, an inferior quality into a good one, a good one into a superlative one. So Nature employs a slow or gradual improvement one step leading to another, and not in a sudden creation of new forms. We must dispel the charm which hangs about the whole thing - there is no magic wand to be passed over the forces of Nature. Crossing of varieties goes on at all times all over the world, and new varieties are constantly appearing. Nature has an infinity of time, she is in no hurry. We humans are interested in producing plants more to our liking, and we are definitely in a hustle. So we use Nature's methods, but try to speed them up and direct them toward an entirely different end.

Presently, in our search, we will awaken to the fact that plants do not cross with totally unlike ones, - the rose does not cross with the violet, nor the peach tree with a pecan tree. Nature, however, simply delights in breaking rules that men make and try to pass off on the world as natural laws. The only living science of plants is the science of breeding and encouraging them to become more to our liking - and let the rules take care of themselves.

Self-fertilization tends to weaken the offspring; crossing between different plants of the same variety gives stronger and more productive progeny than comes from self-fertilization. Crosses between varieties grown in different places or under different conditions give better progeny than crossing between different plants grown in the same place or under similar conditions.

Choose for parents plants with great strength and virility.

Nature abhors self-fertilization. Also, Nature is opposed to hybrids (and by hybrids, we mean the crossing of plants of different species). Because of great differences between parents, pronounced hybrid offspring are unstable. Hybridizing is a game of chance that is played by Man and Nature.

Decide on the ideal of the desired variety before any attempt is made at plant breeding. In order to make any progress in securing something new, one must be a good judge of the capabilities and merits of the plants with which he is working; otherwise he may attempt the impossible or else obtain a variety which has no value. It is also important to remember the fact that a variety which is simply as good as any other, is not worth introducing. It should be better in some particular than any other in existence. I think this one fact should be kept in the minds of all the violet culturists when introducing "something new".

Here are a few facts that may help us in all our Plant Breeding. Lessened vigor, as long as the plant continues to be healthy, nearly always results in some increase of fruitfulness. It is an old Horticultural maxim that checking growth induces fruitfulness. The gardener knows that, if he keeps his plants vigorous by constantly potting them into larger containers, he will get little, or at most, very late, bloom. The plant-breeder, therefore, may be able to induce the first blooms by applying this fact. A decrease in nutrition during the period of growth of a plant favors the development of the flowering parts at the expense of the vegetative parts.

And we should remember that, even though our knowledge of plant breeding may be very limited, we can console ourselves with the fact that there seems to be no limit to the achievements, if we will just be infinitely patient and painstaking. Only the surface of this field has been scratched, so far, in this new and fascinating occupation.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* The newest varieties available in \*  
 \* leaf cuttings and plants. \*  
 \* Double Neptune - - an outstanding \*  
 \* new double, blooms often 1½ inches. \*  
 \* Gorgeous Bicolor, shown at the '48 \*  
 \* show in Cincinnati. Orchid Neptune, \*  
 \* Orchid Wonder, Pastel Orchid, Red \*  
 \* King, Sailor Girl, Lavender Girl, \*  
 \* Purple Girl at \$1.75 each or 3 at \*  
 \* \$5.00. Leaves of above at .50 or 7 \*  
 \* at \$3.00. \*  
 \* Fantasy - - A beauty in a variegated \*  
 \* pink and blue blossom, Tunia's Cleve- \*  
 \* land Indian, Lady Constance, Velvet \*  
 \* Purple, Red Prince at .75 each. \*  
 \* Orders over \$3.00 postpaid - - less \*  
 \* add .35. West of Miss. add .50 to \*  
 \* order. \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

HELEN POCHUREK  
 14225 McCracken Road  
 CLEVELAND 5, OHIO

# STATEMENT OF PLANT PATENT ACT INTENT AND PATENT PROCEDURES

By J. C. Robb, Jr.

(Printed August 28, 1947. In Florist  
Review. Permission was granted to reprint.)

(This article is from a paper, "The Plant Patent Law" prepared by H. C. Robb, Jr. secretary of the National Association of Plant Patent Owners.)

Before 1930 no protection was given to the discoverer or developer of a new variety of plant life. In spite of this fact, there were many plant breeders who devoted all their lives to production in horticulture which greatly benefited mankind. One outstanding example, so well known to most of the public, is Luther Burbank. In the words of this eminent horticulturist, "A man can patent a mousetrap or copyright a nasty song, but if he gives to the world a new fruit, he will be fortunate if he is rewarded by so much as having his name connected with the results."

Mr. Burbank succeeded in carrying on his experiments only through remuneration for his writings and the sale of the use of his name. He failed to live to see the step taken in 1930 to protect originators and discoverers of new varieties of plants. In that year Congress saw fit to "remove the existing discrimination between plant developers and industrial inventors" by enacting what is known as the plant patent act.

Prior to this act, about the only way the originator of a new plant variety could realize from his work was to build up stock guardedly and then sell the first plants at as high a price as he could obtain. Each year thereafter, as distribution increased, he witnessed a loss of control and smaller and smaller returns.

## Not a Monopoly

One must not get the idea that the purpose of patent rights is to make fortunes for individuals by creating monopolies. A patent is not a monopoly in the strict sense of the word, because monopolies take away from the public something it already has, whereas a patent gives to the public something new and beneficial which it did not have before and which it may enjoy after the expiration of the patent. The patentee is given the exclusive control of his discovery for a period of seventeen years.

The fundamental purpose of the plant patent act, which is the same purpose as the general law of patents, is expressed in the Constitution of the United States, namely "to promote the progress of science and the useful arts," and, in the case of plant patents, to stimulate plant development and the investment of capital in plant breeding. Mr. Burbank further said that "the surface of plant experimentation has thus far been only scratched," and only time will show to what extent this is true.

When the patent statutes were amended by Congress by the act of May 29, 1930 (46 statutes at Large 376), a fifth class of inventions capable of being patented was established. By this act, any person who has invented or discovered and asexually reproduced any distinct and new variety of plant, other than a tuber-propagated plant, may, upon compliance with certain requirements and rules, obtain a patent therefor. (See R. S. 4886, U.S.C. Title 35, Section 31).

At the outset emphasis must be laid on the fact that until the distinct and new plant has been asexually reproduced no application for patent should be filed, and also on the further fact that it is the plant and not its flower, its fruit, or other products thereof, which is the basis of the patent grant.

## Patentable Varieties

Now what new varieties are intended to be protected by patent? These fall into three classes: Sports, mutants and hybrids. All of them may be reproduced asexually, and they must be so reproduced as to determine the permanency of their novel characteristics, before the originator, or discoverer, is entitled to apply for a patent. The variety, moreover, must be distinct, and such distinctness may be evidenced by such characteristics as color and form, habits of growth, immunity from disease and resistance to cold, drought, heat, wind and soil conditions; productivity; season of ripening; flavor of fruit; storage qualities, perfume, etc. In the application for patent the characteristics of the plant must be stated clearly and completely in order that they may be relied upon to determine identity in any alleged infringement of patent rights occurring after the patent is granted.

No one is entitled to reproduce asexually a patented plant without the permission of the patent owner, any more than one would be allowed to copy a patented washing machine, radio, or other chemical, electrical or mechanical invention. Such asexual reproduction would constitute an infringement of the patent rights, irrespective of whether it is a single reproduction or multiple one or whether it is for one's own use or for that of another. To reproduce a patented plant it is necessary to procure a license from the patent owner, just as is true in the manufacture, use or sale of any other class of patented invention enumerated in the patent statutes. In other words, there is no difference as to the infringement of plant patents and other patents, because the plant patent law is part of the general law of patents and purposely so. Manufac-



ture or use or sale or any combination of these things, may constitute patent infringement, since a patent gives the patentee the exclusive rights to make, use and sell the invention or discovery covered by the patent.

#### Penalties

If the foregoing is clearly understood, then it will be equally obvious that the same penalties for infringement of patents in general apply equally to plant patents. No extended discussion of these penalties is needed for the purpose of this brief article, but it may be noted that where a court finds that infringement of a patent exists it may grant an injunction on such terms as the court may deem reasonable; it may decree that the complainant is entitled to recover general damages which shall be due compensation for making, using or selling the invention, and not less than a reasonable royalty therefor, and it may also assess such costs as may be fixed by the court and, in the discretion of the court, allow an award of reasonable attorneys' fees to the prevailing party.

These penalties should not be lightly considered. It behooves everyone to respect plant patents the same as other patents.

#### Variable Patent Costs

The cost of obtaining a patent cannot be treated in this article, because costs are subject to variation, depending on circumstances and legal charges. The cost will also vary according to the type of the illustration required for the patent application. It will also depend on whether color of plant, leaves, flowers, fruit, stems, etc., is a feature on which the patent is to be predicated. The question of cost is a matter to be determined between attorney and client, but it can be said that the costs are commensurate with those involved in other patent matters and are usually relatively small in comparison with the benefits derived from the patent and the exclusive rights created for a period of seventeen years, which constitutes the term of all patents.

The plant patent act has now been in effect for nearly seventeen years, and there have been relatively few flagrant infringements necessitating litigation. This situation shows a desire on the part of patent owners to respect each other's rights and to exploit their own discoveries rather than to usurp what does not rightfully belong to them. There have, of course, been violations of plant patents resulting largely from lack of knowledge on the part of the infringers as to the rights given to the patent owner under the patent. While ignorance of the law is not a valid excuse, most of such infringements have been amicably settled out of court and may be taken as experience gained in this new field of patent law. This field is indeed a fertile one, and all who are interested in any way in the development and protection of new varieties of plants should give particular attention and study to the rights and privileges that are afforded by plant patents.

## WIK-FED POTS



The new, scientific, sub-irrigating flower pot. Ideal for African Violets and other house plants. Feeds moisture and plant food by capillary attraction from water storage base direct to the roots as needed. Plants may be left 7 to 10 days without attention. 4 Inch Pot stands 5 inches high with base. Made of strong, non-warp, non-sweat Styron plastic in six beautiful marbled colors: Green, Red, Ivory, Blue, Yellow and Lavender mottled. All pots have high-lustre black bases. New 5 inch size has twice the soil capacity of the 4 inch pot.

**PLEASE SPECIFY COLORS WHEN ORDERING. PRICES POSTPAID:**

4 Inch Pots, \$1.15 Each, 3 for \$3.25, 6 for \$6.00.

5 Inch Pots, \$1.50 Each, 3 for \$4.25.

**DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED**

**KENNEDY SALES**

4299 PACIFIC AVE.

DETROIT 4, MICHIGAN

#### GARDEN EXCHANGE MAGAZINE

That "biggest little" publication for gardeners that features EXCHANGES of garden ideas, tips, hints and articles—as well as its main feature, EXCHANGE of seeds, plants and bulbs! You'll LIKE THIS!

Year \$1.75, 6 Months Sub. \$1.00,

Sample 15¢.

Published Monthly

E. JOHNSON

683 NEVADA ST.

RENO, NEVADA

**AFRICAN VIOLET LEAVES** - - - including the New Double Neptune, my own find, \$1.00 per leaf plus 40¢ postage. Stamped envelope for list.

**MRS. VERNON BOTTRELL**

1031 N. First St. Springfield, Ill.

# HAVING DOUBLE TROUBLE?

Florence T. Foltz, Pa.

The African Violet Society of America seems to be a combination of Pen Pals, Lonely Hearts, and Information Please. One does not belong very long before he is writing letters by the score, and with all that correspondence "Lonely Hearts" automatically gets a new lease on life. If you have a problem which the Society is unable to solve, there just isn't any solution for it!

Let us consider the case of mythical "Mary Jones". Mary joined the African Violet Society and immediately sent an S.O.S. to the president (Alma, not Harry). Mary was having trouble with her Double Duchess; it was loaded with buds, but they would not open. What should she do about it? Being not only National President, but also magazine Editor, Wife, Mother, and African violet hybridizer (and not twins) she called on a willing but inexperienced correspondent, stated the problem and suggested that the writer contact several growers and ask them, "What's wrong with Doubles?"

Most of the letters were sent out at the beginning of December and even though it was a busy season, the response was very gratifying.

Miss Ray Wilcox of Friendly Gardens, New Bedford, Pa., replied, "My Double Duchess plants have always had exactly the same treatment as my other plants, have been good bloomers and never refused to open their buds. When it gets a little Hyponex and good light it responds just like any other African violet, -- more and larger blooms. I have had the Double Orchid for several months and so far it seems to respond just like the Duchess does."

Mrs. Frank Parker, Knoxville, Tennessee, is not sure her opinions will be of very much help because she has never had any "Double Trouble" either, but she writes, "I do believe that some stock of the double purple is better than others. My plants have all been grown from a Double Russian sent to me by Louise Haffner of Michigan. All have opened and bloomed beautifully. I do know that there is one strain of Double Blue Boy which hardly ever opens, so I would say first, try to obtain good stock. Beyond that I am only guessing, but I believe increased humidity would help. To get better humidity I often set the pot, in which the violet is planted, down in a jardiniere or bowl. I pour very hot, steaming water into the jardiniere to water the plant from the bottom, and let the steam come up all around the plant. This will often stimulate bloom, so perhaps it might help the doubles to open. I also think that good strong light, perhaps even

a little extra sun, and proper feeding, all of which are essential to healthy blooming violets, would help the doubles".

Mrs. Genevieve Gray, of Russward Saintpaulias Growers, Jonesboro, Arkansas, was very glad to learn that inquiry was being made into this subject under the auspices of the Violet Society. She added, "It has been our feeling for quite awhile that the double varieties were being neglected because this particular trouble was not adequately explained. Not that I can explain it. Several weeks ago we wrote to several of the larger firms asking about this same trouble. Ulery Greenhouses of Springfield, Ohio, suggested that more fertilizer be given to the double varieties, particularly during the summer months. We immediately went to work on this suggestion, and today our doubles are much improved. But whether this is due to the cooler weather or to the increased fertilizing, we do not know."

Mrs. Ruth Yoars, Bunker Hill, Indiana, has not had any personal trouble with doubles, but cites some interesting observations. #1 "A lady from Chicago has had a plant for three years. It is very large, has always been perfectly healthy, buds profusely then the stems dry up and buds fall. A new plant, started from a leaf of the old one has been in full bloom for a year; the blossoms are large with many petals and open fully." #2 "A lady bought a blooming plant at a large greenhouse. When these flowers faded it never bloomed again. It would bud profusely, but never opened. As time passed it gradually failed and finally she found it infested with a white worm 1/8" long and looking somewhat like a maggot. This had eaten out the heart of the plant, inside up from the roots. A number of people have reported this small worm in the roots and body of the plant. This trouble seems to be reported where chlorinated water is used".

An interesting note from Anne Tinari reads, "We notice two distinct things that differ in their culture from single types. They require more water and more food. We recommend also, taking out bud stalks that come out only partially. They are unsightly, when they do not open fully. By taking these off strength is thrown back to the crown of the plant, which usually helps to strengthen the plant in general and the next blossoms are usually larger and better developed."

There undoubtedly are folks like me, who, when a plant isn't too pretty, either stick it on the top shelf, or in some other inconspicuous spot and hope that some magic power will transform it overnight

Cont. on page 41



# OUR BASHFUL BEAUTIES

Margaret Doell, N. Y.

I would like to tell about a little experiment I recently completed on the heavy foliage type of African violets. This information will be of little interest to those of you who are using greenhouses for propagation, as it is strictly a home problem. I am assuming that most of you have felt as I have in the past, a bit impatient with our "king-size" violets that were so slow to flower, so I decided to try to inspire bloom by employing very drastic measures.

My idea was to subject several of the "supreme" types to as much sun as possible, cast all discretion to the winds, and see what happened. Before I mention the varieties involved, may I explain that I am aware of the confusion in the terminology when reference is made to the Supremes and Amazons. Therefore, please bear with me, as I am using the correct titles to the best of my knowledge, but some of you may be calling your plants of the same variety by a different name. There is no help for this at present. So, my plants used in this plan were: Amethyst, Norseman, Blue, Red and Sailor Boy (Amazons), Red Head, Blue Girl, Blushing Maiden, Double Duchess and Pink Beauty (Supremes), du Pont Blue, Red and Lavender Pink, and Mrs. Boles. They were twelve to fourteen months old when, early in March, I placed them in South windows (with storm sash) and arranged them as close to the light as leafage would allow. Then they were allowed to absorb direct sunlight all day, every day for three months. I had prepared myself for the worst but, surprisingly enough, the results were more than gratifying. For one thing, I was resigned to seeing them all

bleach horribly, but this was the case in only some instances. The others came out of the ordeal with beautifully deepened foliage. Perhaps we may have to revise some of our ideas with regard to sun exposure for our African violets. Suffice it to say, the net results were attractive.

True, the sun had taken its heavy toll, but only in the cases of specimens crowned with dull, hairy-type foliage. The varieties carrying a glossy leaf suffered little or no damage and some were improved. On the blossom side all was "sweetness and lite" for every plant carried a normal quota of buds and bloom for its type. As you can readily imagine, Amethyst Amazon far outshone the rest for quantity of bloom, with Norseman a close second, and Sailor Boy a proud third. The foliage on all three was exceptionally fine as well. The others showing little or no leaf fade followed in this order: du Pont Red, Mrs. Boles, du Pont Blue, du Pont Lavender Pink and Red Head Supreme. On the other hand, the plants most drastically affected by bleaching were in this order: Pink Beauty Supreme, Blushing Maiden Supreme, Red Amazon, Blue Girl Supreme, Double Duchess Supreme and Blue Amazon.

Finally, it is a source of wonderment to me now, how I found the temerity to subject these "bashful beauties" to this rigorous treatment. Obviously much work is bound to be done in this field, and to be remembered is the fact that this was only one trial, in one place, and under one set of conditions. Naturally no accurate data has been established, but rather it is merely a step, in the right direction, toward solving the performance problem involved in this case.

## GROWING SAINTPAULIAS IN CALIFORNIA

Ethel Thalheimer

Each section of our wonderful United States varies considerably. In our vicinity (Southern California) we have a rainy season and a dry season; our humidity and water must be considered. The rainy season comes in the winter when we need heat and this lowers our humidity, so I suggest that pans of water be set on the floor furnaces. Our humidity is always low, therefore our soil must be porous for air, yet must hold moisture. Some City water contains chlorine; if not too high a percentage, it will correct itself, if let stand 24 hours before using.

My friend, Veryl Maxham, and I have been 'putting and taking' in our growing medium for some time and at last we are satisfied; our Saintpaulias are growing like little fighters, with beautiful foliage. Plantlets divided and potted in this mixture have been coming into bloom in six weeks in our homes, in East windows with curtains to filter the light.

- 3 Pints Garden Soil
- 3 Pints Oakleaf Mold
- 1 Pint Redwood Leaf Mold
- 1 Pint Steer Fertilizer
- 1 Pint Soilite or Sharp Sand
- 1 Cup Bonemeal

To sterilize, sprinkle with water until moist, bake in oven at 225° for 1 hour. Stir several times, and be sure to keep it moist or it will destroy the growing elements.

I sterilize the pots, then dip the top edges in hot paraffin to protect the petioles from the moisture and chemicals.

No matter how much work and time is taken in sterilizing to prevent pests and disease, it is well worth while, and too much cannot be said on this subject. Saintpaulias are easy to grow and keep healthy, if a person is systematic and careful to isolate for one month all new plants.

# MILE HIGH HOBBY

Annette Scully

Raising African violets at altitudes of 5,000 feet or over (here at Laramie, Wyoming, the altitude is 7211 feet), is not an easy matter. We have many problems to contend with, but we try to overcome these problems and to give the violets, as nearly as possible, the same growing conditions they were accustomed to in their native haunts. Some of our problems are as follows: low humidity, coupled with drying winds, constant variation in temperature which changes several times in one hour, long, cold winters, and extremely intense light during the summer.

Due to the intensity of the sun at this altitude during the summer months, we have to watch our plants for sun scalding. In east windows, even in the early morning, plants must be protected with thin glass curtains or sheets of wax paper between the plants and the window pane. I use the clear transparent plastic curtains instead. It lets in the diffused light and warmth, but breaks the hot, burning rays of the sun. Throughout June, July, and August, I have to use double sets of glass curtains in west windows. In the morning before the sun shifts around to the west windows, I pull the curtains back to give them all the light they need. Clear plastic table cloths in small sizes can be used to cover the plants during the hottest part of the day, eliminating the use of double sets of curtains and having to remember

to pull down the shades. Heavy sheets of wax paper similar to that used at meat markets will serve the same purpose. I have had plants sun scalded in the month of May through one pair of glass curtains. Another good idea, if you own your own home, is to buy sheets of Dupont Cel-O-Glass and tack it on the outside of your windows. It also serves as a substitute storm window in the winter, thereby allowing you to keep your plants closer to the window pane without their getting chilled. With the Cel-O-Glass your worries of sun scalding would be over, yet strong light would be admitted through this transparent material. By providing this extra shading, we are able to have foliage of a heavy dark green color.

We also have the drying winds, which cause the plants to dry out quickly, especially in the hot months, when the windows are open. This necessitates a daily inspection of the plants to see if they need watering.

The relative humidity at Laramie is as follows -- 7 A.M., 55%, Noon, 25 to 50%, 7 to 8 P.M., 75%. In spite of the dry atmosphere, our cool summer nights are a great help, replacing, to some extent, the moisture loss by evaporation from the foliage during the day.

To promote more humidity in the house in the winter months when the doors and windows are closed and gas heat is on,





I grow Ivies in large vases of water along with my violets. I also put tall fruit cans full of water inside of each wall register in the corner, where they cannot be seen, and I keep them filled as the water evaporates. I also keep the furnace water container full daily.

Our soil here is another problem. I called the Agricultural Department of The University of Wyoming for the P.H. on soil, that I had obtained in a canyon nearby. I was informed that the P.H. on the soil at one end of the canyon was 8: at the other end, the P.H. was 6: and that Wyoming has 200 or more types, colors, textures, and series of soils.

Most irrigated soil in Wyoming is a brown or light grayish brown loam or a fine sandy loam, but there are sands and clays, and black, red, gray, and brown soils too. I found that these types of soils pack and bake like cement when watered, if no other moisture holding ingredients are added. Therefore, the addition of sand, peat moss, leaf mold, and natural fertilizers like well-rotted sheep or cow manure is essential to make up a good soil mixture.

In propagating leaves, I always try to root them in wide mouth jars, so I can keep a clear plastic refrigerator bowl cover over the top of the jar until they are well rooted, and small plants appear. Without this protection from the extreme dryness of the air, the leaf, wilting from the top down, will collapse just before or soon after the small plants appear. From a reliable source came the information that high nitrate levels in the soil, whether from a natural condition, or chemical fertilizers, can cause the leaf stem to die. With the lack of moisture in the air, leaves take more time to root and plants grow more slowly, but when they have reached the age of maturity, they are husky looking and growing more flat than upright. There is no spindly growth out here.

We do not have many commercial violet growers in this part of the country. This makes it difficult for a collector to add the newest varieties to his or her collection. However, the National African Violet Society, especially the Round Robin and Homing Pigeon Department, has been a great help. By joining several of these Robins and Pigeons, you make contacts with other amateur growers, and find out what varieties they have in their collection. Then you can exchange via air mail and parcel post (Special Delivery). This enables you to get new varieties even before they are for sale by commercial growers. The magazine gives us much worth while information from amateur growers in different parts of the country. I find the information of their methods of propagating, soil mixtures, insect and disease control, etc., very helpful.

Cont. on page 29

## WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BY THE TRIAL AND ERROR METHOD IN GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS

My Do's and Don't's

Edith Mackey, Calif.

Full sunlight gives you lovely blooms, but poor foliage. Weak light gives you good foliage, and very little bloom. Adjust the light according to your own particular conditions. Plenty of fresh air is essential, but no drafts.

My greatest mistake is oversized potting. Start with your smallest pots, gradually increasing until they are in 4 inch pots for single crown plants. Shallow fern pots are ideal. Single crown plants showing a center rosette are lovelier than multiple crown plants. They also show off flowers to better advantage.

Soil Mixture should be porous, rich in humus and quick draining. If not you are apt to get crown rot. When watering, place pots in deep water, soak them thoroughly at each watering, and water only when top soil is dry to the touch.

My soil recipe:  $\frac{1}{2}$  soil (my soil is a black soil which contains peat and some sand),  $\frac{1}{2}$  leaf mold (I use it as it comes from the sack),  $\frac{1}{2}$  sand and a small amount of bonemeal, charcoal, and a little vermiculite or peat.

Spray foliage with warm water at least twice a month. Never use cold water on the leaves of your violets or the leaves will spot. Always use room temperature water for watering or spraying foliage and keep out of the sun or strong light till dry. Spray in early morning and if plants are not thoroughly dry by noon blot off surplus water with blotting paper. When fertilizing do not get fertilizer on the foliage or center of crown . . . neither sodium selenate, if using it. Fertilize at edge if not using saucer method. I prefer an acid fertilizer such as Liquid Grow. I occasionally use Hyponex and Vitamin B-1.

Keep larger plants from touching each other; this prevents the transfer of pests from one plant to another if one should become infested before you notice it. Small plants seem to like being crowded. I have learned this since keeping my small plants in pots in chicken feeders. I find them easier to water and carry about if I wish to. Also the small amount of water remaining after watering creates a humidity that they enjoy very much.

I have just found out to my delight I can grow African Violets in pots without drainage. Try growing them in sniffer glasses or large fish bowls, or in your precious china cup with saucer, and set them on your coffee table or about your room. They are lovely displayed this way.

# A VISIT WITH FAY WILCOX

Emily M. Hodan, O.

Wouldn't you like to take an afternoon drive and visit a lady famous in African violet circles? We are referring to Fay Wilcox of Friendly Gardens, who is known far and wide as a specialist in African violet seed.

Just on the outskirts of the small town of New Bedford, Pennsylvania, sits a trim white house atop a little knoll overlooking the highway. Before we can drive up the short winding road to the front door, out steps Fay to welcome us. And of course Melvin Gregg, her cousin, will also be on hand to say "hello". Then there is Tucker, or "Tuck", for short, who rushes up with a joyous bark to let us know he's part of the welcoming committee, too. And into the house we go, where Matilda and Miranda, the pussy cats, sit contentedly and wait expectantly for a friendly pat.

Did we say "contentedly"? Not always, for there is a new kitten as yet unnamed, who has entered the family circle and certainly keeps things humming. He had us in stitches watching his antics, climbing in and up on the bookcase, peering out from behind the books, then like a flash, jumping down in a power dive on the back of Matilda, his foster mother. Next moment he was scurrying along the window sill and horror of horrors, getting

all tangled up in the curtains. Then he whisked out of sight and next thing we knew, he was trying to climb up on a dining room chair. Never a dull moment in the house with him!

Just then we looked out the window and saw another car pulling into the drive, so Fay said to us, "Go ahead and look at the violets while I go see who it is." We didn't need a second invitation and stepped out into the sunporch. Violets here, there, and everywhere we look - rows and rows of lovely saintpaulias in rainbow hues. There are propagating trays galore for cherished varieties, set on shelves above the plants, where cuttings are started in vermiculite.

But we are anxious to see the greenhouse proper, so off we go to the long Orlyt house that Melvin built.

Well, the sight that greets us as we enter just about leaves us breathless - violets, violets and more violets, in bud, in bloom, and most exciting of all, plants with maturing seed pods. So many seed pods on the plants, fat, full pods, a promise of new seedlings for the African violet fan! Fay said she has had as many as fifty to sixty seed pods on one plant at a time.

Of course we want to know just when Fay really became interested in African violet seeds. "Oh", she said, "it must be going on five years now. I started by pollinating one plant for fun to see if the cross would take, and it did, so I decided I must have beginner's luck. But it was so fascinating that I gradually expanded in this field and discontinued shipping plants, to devote all my time to this phase of African violet culture. There is always the possibility that the seed may produce some unusual and outstanding seedling."

"I've had orders for seed from far-away places, from Turkey, Singapore, New Zealand, Guatemala, Hawaii, England, Greece, Germany, Alaska, even from East Africa. I have sent seed to an interested fan who lives in almost the exact location in East Africa where the original plants were discovered by Baron Walter Von Saint Paul."

"I have found" she went on, "that spring pollination seems to cause seed to mature more quickly than fall pollination. It will take from six to nine months for seed to mature".

"And just how do you make your crosses?" we asked. "Well", she replied, "there are different methods used by different people, but I like to use a pair of tiny scissors and snip away a small portion of the anthers of one blossom and let the pollen fall on my thumb nail. Then I







apply the pollen grains from my nail on to the stigma of another blossom, using seed parents of different varieties. Or if you don't want to use the thumb nail procedure, you can insert the pistil of one flower, into the tiny opening cut in the anthers of another flower, but be sure the stigma is sticky so that the pollen will adhere. In this way the pistil will come directly into contact with the fresh pollen and the stigma of the pistil will show the yellow pollen grains. If a cross takes, the seed pod will form shortly and then a period of waiting follows until the seed is ripe. It is a good idea to run plants while seed is maturing a little on the dry side. Also be sure you do not crowd your plants at this time as they need good air circulation round about them.

I have noticed the different shapes and sizes of seed pods, the du Ponts especially forming very large seed pods, but eventually at maturity they seem to become more or less standard in size. When the seed pods are fully mature, they will appear shrunken and dry. Remove them from the plant and let them dry another month or so as this seems to add to their vitality. Then open the pods, remove the seeds carefully and store in a glass jar until time to plant.

Be sure your soil is sterilized to prevent fungus growth. Again there may be a very slight variation in the preparation of the potting mixture. We use a 4 inch pot with plenty of crocking in the bottom for good drainage, then fill up with a mixture of light, sandy soil, vermiculite and peat moss, no fertilizer. Firm the soil, set the pot in water and let it soak up until well moistened, then sprinkle the fine seed on the surface, place a piece of glass over the top and keep in a warm, light place. Water from below to keep the soil uniformly damp but never

too wet, for then the seed will rot. If moisture should collect on the glass, remove the top, wipe dry and replace. Germination will take place in perhaps fourteen days and will continue on into possibly several months.

When your tiny seedlings reach the third or fourth leaf stage and are barely large enough to handle, they may be lifted out with a toothpick or a very thin knife blade and transplanted either to flats or directly into the small two inch pots, using the same soil mix as before. Another shift will be necessary later as the plantlets become crowded. Depending on varieties and different growing locations, first blooms may appear anywhere after six months.

I've made crosses of du Pont Lavender Pink on Blue Chard and Ruffles, hoping for larger and perhaps orchid blossoms with either Blue Chard or Ruffles foliage. I've also pollinated Pink Beauty, White Lady, Sky Blue and Blushing Maiden on Blue Girl, hoping to get a Girl seedling with the typical Blue Girl foliage and a light shade of blossom. And I've crossed White Lady and Sky Blue in hopes of getting a white with better foliage. Time will tell if the seed produces something outstanding".

Well, it was now getting late and we had a long drive ahead of us so regretfully we bade Fay and Melvin goodbye and started for home.

But our parting thought was this: No wonder this place is called "Friendly Gardens" - truly an appropriate name for friendly folks.

## MILE HIGH HOBBY

Cont. from page 27

The shipping of leaves and plants is risky from Sept. 30th to May 31st out here. I have received them later than these dates, but I always keep my fingers crossed until the package is received and opened. Snow storms and freezing weather are not unusual at the first of June and even later.

Some, or all of the problems found in this region, may prevail in other parts of the country; yet with all these obstacles that confront us at high altitudes. I receive more pleasure from raising African violets than any other house plants, because they can be raised inside the home the year round, regardless of weather conditions.

When the snows come, covering the ground, when the leaves wither and drop from the trees, and the skies take on a cold grey color, my home is brightened by the dark green foliage and lovely blossoms of my violets. It seems as if I have taken a part of summer into my home. When I see them growing and blooming profusely, I am more than repaid for the efforts I have put into raising them.



(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)



GLADYS CANNER  
Homing Pigeon  
Membership Manager

With this issue we are introducing to you two very active Homing Pigeonites who will conduct the program work of the Homing Pigeon Department for this year.

It is my pleasure to present to you Gladys (Mrs. Daniel A.) Canner, Route 1, Creek Road, Herkimer, New York, who is in charge of applications for membership in all pigeon units. If you wish to join a group, or if you wish to withdraw from one, please communicate with Mrs. Canner at the above address. As your Homing Pigeon Membership Manager she will be most willing to assist you in any way she can.



VIOLET BERRY  
Homing Pigeon  
News Editor

A hearty welcome is extended to Violet (Mrs. Thomas) Berry, 710 East 6th Street, Mount Vernon, Indiana, who as your Pigeon News Editor will gather the information for this page. News from Pigeon Directors, as well as from the Pigeon letters themselves, will enlarge the scope of Pigeon contributions.

Dear Pigeon Members:

HELP! HELP! HELP!

Let's make our Column of the Magazine one of the best! Without your help - it will be a big FLOP! May I count on all of you to HELP?

This column is to be made up of all helpful suggestions and hints that you members write in your Pigeon Units. If your suggestions are good and would be of interest to the Society to publish, I am to copy them with your name attached. You watch the column then to see your name in print. I think we will also publish any unusual problems too. We are hoping that no one will object to the publishing of their hints and suggestions.

I am hoping that we can create some real discussion among Pigeon Members and pep up any who may be losing interest. I have hopes that this column will give you something to talk about in your letters and discuss.

In order to keep these groups on their toes, will all members PLEASE abide by the rule of not holding the letters more than 3 days? This is of importance - any member who continually disregards this, will have to be dropped. It is not fair to those who abide by the rules, to have someone disregard it.

Please be sure that your letters carry enough postage. Again, it is not fair to the one who has to accept the letters with POSTAGE DUE.

Mail the letters in envelopes that are big enough and heavy enough to survive rough handling in the mails. Tape the corners and the flaps down if there is any danger of the envelopes bursting open.

WATCH FOR OUR PIGEON COLUMN IN THE NEXT ISSUE!!! It's up to you Pigeon Members to help make it a really good one.

Sincerely,  
Violet Berry



# ANSWERS TO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR PLAN OF REGISTRATION

Our Plan of Registration is only just now getting under way in the long and somewhat difficult task of accurately recording by name and authentic description all different varieties of African violets originated in the past, and all different varieties that will be originated in the future. In the performance of a service of this kind it is quite natural that most of the problems to be encountered will arise to confront us at the very outset. Several problems have already arisen and we will attempt to furnish our members with the solution to these problems in the following questions and answers.

**QUESTION - How Are So Many Different Varieties Of African Violets To Be Registered?**

**ANSWER -** There are three logical and practical ways for this to be done:

First . . . It is the responsibility and privilege of everyone who originated or discovered a different variety of African violet in the past, and that will originate or discover one in the future, to personally register all such past and future originations.

Second . . . In case the originator does not register his originations within a reasonable length of time, then the commercial grower or dealer who offers them for sale may register for the originator. Commercial growers and dealers must, in all instances, secure the written consent of the originator of a seedling to register it. But mutations (sports) may be registered without the originator's consent.

Third . . . In case neither the originator nor the commercial grower or dealer registers in a reasonable length of time, then any other person who desires to do so may register for the originator. However, as has already been stated, the written consent of the originator of a seedling must, in all instances, be secured.

There are a number of varieties of African violets that have been patented. It is the responsibility and privilege of the patentee, or the person or firm that holds the patent right, to register. If neither the patentee nor the person or firm that holds the patent right registers, then either the commercial grower or dealer who sells them, or anyone else who desires to do so, may register for the patentee.

**QUESTION - What Is Meant By Raising An Objection To The Registration Of African Violet?**

**ANSWER -** It is not practical for the Committee on Registration to first see and judge every variety of African violet submitted for registration.

So it is provided in the Code of Rules that govern the operation of the Plan of Registration that, in case anyone knows

of any reason why any particular variety of African violet that is submitted for registration should not be registered by the Society, that person may communicate such reason to the Society. In other words, if you personally believe a certain variety should not be registered, and you base your belief on a sound reason - not on hearsay - please immediately write the Committee on Registration fully about the matter. When you do this you are 'Raising an Objection' to the registration of that variety, and properly so.

**QUESTION -** The varieties Mary Wac and Trilby I purchased from two separate dealers are the same variety. Should both of these be registered under two different names?

**ANSWER -** No, they should not be so registered. In fact, it is questionable whether either one of these names should be registered. We now believe that this variety was first named Orchid Beauty and should accordingly be registered under that name.

In Volume 2, Number 2, Page 18 of the African Violet Magazine, the Society's Committee on Classification (this committee has since been succeeded by the Committee on Registration) gave an authentic description of Orchid Beauty, accompanied by the following statement. "Orchid Beauty - the most confused of all varieties. Other varieties which are the same, or so similar as to not be distinct, are Orchid Queen - Rosy Blue - Trilby - Orchid Red - Plum - Plum Pink - Mary Wac - Vivid - Vivid Plum - Betty Joe and perhaps many others."

This is the most typical example of duplication of names that we know of. A single variety, Orchid Beauty, also known under ten different other names and perhaps more. It graphically illustrates the critical need for registration of each separate and distinct variety of African violet under one name and authentic description. And this service is now being performed by the Society through its Committee on Registration.

All who are interested in the accurate classification of the different and distinct varieties of African violets, through the operation of our Plan of Registration, are urged to carefully read the Code of Rules that governs the operation of the Plan. A copy of the Code may be secured from the Committee on Registration, 2694 Lenox Rd. N. E. Atlanta 5, Georgia. Further questions and answers regarding other problems encountered in the operation of the Plan of Registration will be published in future issues of The African Violet Magazine.

# COMMITTEE ON REGISTRATION REPORTS

## Registrations Become Permanent

Permanent registrations on all of the following varieties, applications for which were published in Volume 3, Number 2, Page 40, of the African Violet Magazine, became effective February 10, 1950.

**BIG MIKE**,  
by Mrs. Irving R. Furnish.  
**CUSTARD CUP**,  
by Mrs. Irving R. Furnish.  
**BLUE ANGEL**,  
by Mrs. Irving R. Furnish.  
**BLUE SNOW**,  
by Mrs. Homer C. Foltz.  
**DARK EYES**,  
by Mrs. Irving R. Furnish.  
**IONANTHA SUPREME**,  
by Mrs. Irving R. Furnish.  
**LADY SLIPPER**,  
by Mrs. Homer C. Foltz.  
**LUANA**,  
by Mrs. Irving R. Furnish.  
**MARINE**,  
by Mrs. C. H. Harris.  
**ORCHID EYES**,  
by Mr. George P. McFarland.  
**PRINCESS LEILA**,  
by Mrs. Velma Davis.  
**SKY BLUE SUPREME**,  
by Mrs. Irving R. Furnish.  
**WHITE GIRL**,  
by Mrs. Frank Oros.  
**LADY CATHERINE**,  
by Mrs. Velma Davis.  
**LOVE BIRDS**,  
by Mrs. Homer C. Foltz.  
**McFARLAND'S BLUE WARRIOR**,  
by Mr. George P. McFarland.  
**MOONGLOW**,  
by Mrs. Homer C. Foltz.  
**RIPPLING BLUE**,  
by Mrs. John C. Doell.

## Correction Of A Registration

Mrs. Frank Oros applied for registration of a new variety she desired to name Oros White Girl, and her application was so published in Volume 3, Number 2, Page 40 of the African Violet Magazine. Subsequently, Mr. John Good, of the firm of Good & Reese, Springfield, Ohio, applied for registration of a new variety he desired to name White Girl.

The parentage of Mr. Good's origination was given as (Seedling of Blue Girl x Seedling of White Lady). The parentage of Mrs. Oros origination was given as (Blue Girl x White Ruffles). The description of the color and pattern of foliage and the color of bloom of both these seedlings appears to indicate such similarity as to make it desirable, and certainly less confusing, to permanently

record the name of this new White origination as **WHITE GIRL**; and this correction is so noted in the foregoing list of permanent registrations.

More and more as interested growers of African violets make experimental crosses, using the same or related varieties - as they are certain to do - it may be reasonably expected that results which are correspondingly similar will occur. However, experience thus far indicates that while two selected seedlings from crosses of the same or related varieties, made by two different people in different locations, may be quite similar as to color and pattern of foliage and color of bloom, one of the two varieties may greatly excel in other characteristics such as form of growth, substance and amount of bloom, etc. Because of this the Committee on Registration looks forward to the time when the Society can establish Testing Stations where varieties that appear to closely resemble each other in some characteristics may be grown and observed side by side in different locations, so as to determine by such accredited testing, whether the two or more such varieties differ from each other in other characteristics.

## Additional Registrations

Applications for registration of the following additional varieties of African violets were received and recorded during the period from October 1, 1949 to January 17, 1950.

**BLUE GIRL SUPREME**,  
by Mrs. Jennie Spoutz, Detroit, Mich.  
December 6, 1949.  
**CRINKLES**,  
by Mrs. Paul B. Dissinger, Lancaster, Penn.  
October 18, 1949.  
**FANTASY**,  
by Behnke Nurseries, Beltsville, Md.  
December 5, 1949.  
**LADY CONSTANCE**,  
by Behnke Nurseries, Beltsville, Md.  
December 5, 1949.  
**PERIWINKLE**,  
by Mrs. Jennie Spoutz, Detroit, Mich.  
December 6, 1949.  
**RED DAWN**,  
by Mrs. James B. Carey, Ft. City, Tenn.  
October 28, 1949.  
**BLUE KNIGHT**,  
by Mrs. Joseph E. Hodan, Clev. Hgts., Ohio.  
October 6, 1949.  
**PURPLE BEAUTY**,  
by Mrs. James B. Carey, Ft. City, Tenn.  
October 28, 1949.  
**HELEN WILSON**,  
by Tinari Floral Gardens, Bethayres, Penn.  
December 21, 1949.  
**LANCASTER RED**,  
by Mrs. C. G. Landis, Lancaster, Penn.  
October 6, 1949.



**RUFFLED WHITE,**  
by Good & Reese, Springfield, Ohio.  
December 1, 1949.

**TINARI'S BLUE FLUTE,**  
by Tinari Floral Gardens, Bethayres, Penn.  
January 17, 1950.

**TINARI'S DOUBLE MENTOR BOY,**  
by Tinari Floral Gardens, Bethayres, Penn.  
January 17, 1950.

**TINARI'S AMAZON BLUE EYES,**  
by Tinari Floral Gardens, Bethayres, Penn.  
January 17, 1950.

**TINARI'S AMERICA,**  
by Tinari Floral Gardens, Bethayres, Penn.  
January 17, 1950.

**TINARI'S PURPLE PRINCE SUPREME,**  
by Tinari Floral Gardens, Bethayres, Penn.  
January 17, 1950.

**TINARI'S MAMMOTH BLUE,**  
by Tinari Floral Gardens, Bethayres, Penn.  
January 17, 1950.

**TINARI'S BLUE EYES,**  
by Tinari Floral Gardens, Bethayres, Penn.  
January 17, 1950.

The applications for registration of these additional varieties are hereby published in accordance with Section 19 of our Code Of Rules For Nomenclature And Registration (Revised) which provides:

"The Committee on Registration will publish all applications for registration in the African Violet Magazine, the official organ of African Violet Society of America, Inc. with notice that objections to be effective must be filed with the Chairman of the Committee on Registration within six weeks of such publication. If no objection is made, registration will become permanent and accordingly so published in a subsequent issue of the African Violet Magazine. In the event of objections to registration, decision will rest with the Executive Committee of the Society."

Anyone desiring to file an objection to the registration of any of the foregoing varieties may do so. All such objections must be adequately detailed in a letter addressed to the Chairman of Committee on Registration, 2694 Lenox Road, N. E. Atlanta 5, Georgia.

---

## REGISTRATION FEES ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED

Shortly after the establishment of our Plan of Registration, which provided for the payment of a \$2.00 fee for each variety registered by a member of the Society, and \$5.00 for each variety registered by a non-member, it was determined that such required fees appeared to be hindering the registration of both old and new varieties of African violets.

The decision was accordingly made to discontinue on January 1, 1950 that part of the Plan which required payment of registration fees. We therefore gladly notify the entire Membership of the Society that registration fees are no longer required, and that both members and non-members of the Society may now register any and all eligible varieties of African violets with the Society free of any cost whatsoever.

---

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Daisy Jones, Tenn.

What's In A Name? ? ? Oh, you would be surprised at the why and wherefore of some names. Take our African violets for instance.

Delving into the back-ground of names of varieties, I find history, geography, languages, romance, ancestry and many other reasons back of our African violet named varieties. A few years ago Mr. C. J. Hudson, of Atlanta, Georgia, wrote a fine article for Flower Grower Magazine and in it he stated that he hoped the originators of new varieties of African violets would stick to color, otherwise purchasers would not know what color they were securing.

I hope the Committee on Registration will encourage growers of new varieties

to name their African violets so that the prospective purchaser will have a clue as to color of their purchase. As an ideal example of proper naming there is Blue Boy Improved, Tinari Blue Eyes, Merkel's Red, Pink Beauty Supreme, White Lady, etc. Other varieties such as Zig, Von Deitrich, Frieda, Admiral, etc. give me no clue as to color by their name.

I am sure that as an African violet lover, interested in all new varieties, it would be a great help to me in selecting the ones that I wish to add to my collection if something about their name gave me a clue as to color of the blossom. I believe the great majority of African violet lovers will share this same feeling with me.

## THE SALE

(This one is for fun! Editor)

R. E. Memberthis

We have for consideration the unfortunate case of Mrs. St. John, who raised Saintpaulias.

Mrs. St. John was quite happy and content with her Saintpaulias until one day when she spied the perfect dream of an Easter hat in a Main Stem Millinery Shop. It was about the size and shape of the bowl that held the four inch pot of her favorite White Lady but it was all over lavender and purple violets with miles of pale pink tulle. Mrs. St. John informed Mr. St. John that evening at dinner that she just had to have the hat and, to pay for it, she would sell some of her excess Saintpaulias.

The poor unsuspecting soul ran a modest ad in the classified section of a local paper to wit:-

African violets. 87 varieties. Many in bloom. The perfect Easter Gift. Modest prices . . .

and followed it with her address. The ad appeared Saturday evening and the first visitor arrived with the first cup of Sunday morning coffee.

The door was opened to reveal the Ardent Collector with a shoe box under one arm and breathless from having run up the front walk.

"My dear, I had to get here before all the good things were gone. I have 196 varieties so I am only interested in new ones. Oh, you're having breakfast!" she exclaimed as she advanced toward the table dragging a chair with her.

"Will you have a cup of coffee with us?"

"My dear, I'd love it", as she pushed all the dishes from her side of the table and placed the shoe box exactly in front of her.

In bewilderment, Mrs. St. John went for another cup and saucer while the Ardent Collector carried on a rapid fire monologue with Mr. St. John. "Do you like violets? My husband just despises them. They're all over my house. It's a mess. I never have room to clean. Three spoons", in answer to "Sugar?" "and plenty of cream. Half and half in fact. I brought you some stuff. Junk mostly, but as you only have 87 varieties - - - !!"

The coffee was pushed aside and the lid removed from the shoe box with perfect showmanship. A tiny plant in a two inch pot was crowded into one corner and the remainder of the box was filled with small waxed paper bundles. The Ardent Collector removed the plant and placed it in the exact center of the table.

"Do you have this? I call it Sally. Do you know Sally? She gave it to me. Of course, after I had given her my very best plants. I don't know what it is but its lovely . . . Just another blue".

Mrs. St. John could tell that the minute thing was an African violet but, as it was too small to have taken on any characteristics, - - - she didn't know the variety either.

Unwrapping the first bundle, the Ardent Collector held the waxed paper toward the light. "I call this Luscious". Placed the paper with leaf upon it next to the pot of "Sally".

"Looks like Viking to me", said Mrs. St. John, but this comment was ignored as the process of unwrapping and reading was continued.

"This is - - -. My dear, I can't read my own writing. Oh, well, it doesn't matter. My coffee is cold".

Fifteen minutes later the table was respread with waxed paper displaying leaves, in all stages approaching actual demise, with all the flourish of a gem upon a velvet cushion. Mr. St. John had been forced to retreat to the kitchen sink with his cup of coffee.

Fortunately, at this time the Man With A Purpose put in his appearance.

"Violets?"

"Yes".

"Good. I want one for my wife for Easter. She's crazy".

"I beg your pardon".

"Crazy! Puts the blamed things on the breakfast table every morning and talks to them".

"My good man, we all are. What have you in mind?"

"Anything. Don't know a thing about them. Don't care for that matter".

"Here is a lovely Red Head".

"She has it".

"duPont Lavender Pink?"

"She has it".

"Well in that case . . . ! Would you care to look around?"

He would, and did. The trip was hasty and apparently without a glance.

"I'll take that", he said as soon as he saw a lovely Blush Amazon.

"I'll wrap it for you".

"No you don't. I brought a box". The box was carried in from the automobile. It had holes cut into the top - three of them. "Here let me. You will break it up." So the Man With A Purpose took the Amazon and pushed the pot firmly down into the middle hole.



Mrs. St. John took courage in hand and remarked timidly, "You have two more holes".

"Humph. How much?"

"\$1.50"

"The florists get \$3.00".

"I'm sorry".

"Well in that case, I will take the Plum Satin on the second shelf in the back bedroom and the Rosalie from the far corner of the sun porch".

For a man who doesn't know a thing about African violets !!!

Mrs. St. John didn't want to sell the Plum Satin or the Rosalie but the Man With A Purpose had bewildered her beyond reason.

"My dear, you should have soaked him for them", said the Ardent Collector. "Three dollars, he said, at the florists. I certainly would love to have your Merkel's Giant Blue".

"I wouldn't care to part with it. I had such a time getting the plant".

"Well, I didn't really want to part with my leaf from whatcher-ma-callit".

An embarrassing situation was postponed by the arrival of the Bird and the Cynic. The Bird was a dainty little thing who bounced up the walk on the balls of her feet and tiptoed around the house showing her familiarity with wakes and funerals. The Cynic announced as soon as she stepped inside the door, "I am not a bit interested in violets. I only drove her over here. What a mess! How do you ever see outside? They are nice though. What do you feed them? Of course her plants are better than these, and if I had time to waste raising . . . What did you say you fed them?"

"Hyponex. Twice a month".

"I don't believe it. But then you are like all the rest of them. Secrets. Nothing but secrets".

The Bird Oh'ed and Ah'ed quite subduedly, clasping her hands in ecstasy as she stopped before each and every plant and rhapsodized. "Aren't they beautiful? Aren't they beautiful? I just love to look at them. You don't mind if I look, do you?"

About this time the Lady With Consideration arrived; followed closely by the Connoisseur. The Ardent Collector was busy in the kitchen peeling potatoes for dinner.

The Lady With Consideration quietly viewed the plants, both large and small, whenever she could get a peep over the backs of the Bird and the Cynic and was silently making up her mind about her purchases when the Connoisseur arrived.

"I brought my list," said the Connoisseur. "I only want the very newest, or something I do not already have. I want the very best at that - not only good varieties, you understand, but also good

plants. But before I waste any of my time - do you have any bugs? No! Good. Then let us sit quietly over here and go over my list. It will save my looking at everything".

The list was hastily checked with the Bird taking in every name and expressing a desire to visit the Connoisseur and take a peep at her plants. The Connoisseur interrupted long enough to comment "No, you don't. Wouldn't have a mess of women tramping through my house for anything in the world."

The Cynic was busy finding the cracks and flaws in the collection of antique glass in the corner-cupboard.

After making numerous mental notes, the Lady With Consideration went her way with the promise to return the next day.

Unfortunately, the only thing Mrs. St. John had to offer the Connoisseur was a separation of her newly acquired Lady Geneva. Quite frankly the Connoisseur told her she could keep it, as it would die anyway - they always did, and left with the parting remark, "Don't know what I expected as I already have the largest collection within five hundred miles".

Finally the Bird decided upon a Red Head with a mere fourteen inch spread and only about forty-six blooms. "How much?"

"\$1.50".

"My goodness. I never pay over fifty cents for a plant. Don't you have a small one for fifty cents - or thirty-five?"

Mrs. St. John did and showed her a lovely collection of six for her to make a selection. "Don't you have one in bloom for fifty cents?"

Mrs. St. John parted with the large, blooming Red Head, two leaves from the Lady Geneva and a sucker from Blue Bird, collected her fifty cents, and recounted her prayers as she sat down to the Ardent Collector's dinner. The Cynic's remark that "it wasn't worth \$1.50 anyway, as it was broken" still rousing her ire, as she knew that the Bird had pinched the leaves that had made it lopsided.

That afternoon brought only the considerate and friendly type of customer that African violet collectors usually are. That is, until the arrival of the Lady With Opinions who arrived about five. She didn't expect to find anything but one could never tell. She managed to get into the north bedroom that had previously been closed. "What are these?"

"Seedlings".

"Humph! Seedlings. Everyone messing with seedlings. No wonder everything is a mess. Bet you haven't got a decent one in the lot - except those four over there. I'll take them".

"Sorry but they are not for sale. I thought they might be worth something and am propagating to see if they come true".

"Just like all the rest. Never want to sell what a person wants to buy".

"You're like all the rest too", quipped the Ardent Collector. "Never want to buy anything but what we don't want to sell".

The Lady With Opinions trembled violently. "They all look like Orchid Beauties anyway. Don't know why I even gave them a glance. What about the rest of this stuff?"

"You can have any of the others at \$1.50".

"Sure. They're not worth a 'tinkers toot' or you wouldn't be selling them. You'd give them a name and push them out on the market. No wonder everything is such a mess. What you should do is throw all of them out, but no, you sell them or give them away; but not to me, I see. Then what happens? Everyone has a new plant and gives it a name. No wonder I'm kept poor as a church mouse trying to keep up with everything. Throw them out, I say - and as long as you are going to, I may as well take these three. They're kind of cute. What's your name? St. John. Good, I'll name them after you - St. John, St. Peter, St. Anne and Sunday Morning. I'll just put them in my box here".

The next thing she wanted was Mrs. St. John's prized duPont Blue #5, her only #4 and Silver Pink.

"Oh, I could not part with them. They are a part of my own collection".

"Nonsense. If you got these you can get more. I mean to have them".

The Lady With Opinions sat herself upon a chair by the front door, looked glum and prepared to wear down Mrs. St. John. The latter lady retreated to the kitchen to confer with her husband. The Ardent Collector kept an eye on the Lady With Opinions, as she expected to see her shove everything into her box that it would hold. Mr. St. John's patience was exhausted; he shouted - for the benefit of the Lady With Opinions - "Soak her five bucks apiece and get her out of here".

The Lady With Opinions was smiling triumphantly and holding out three crumpled five dollar bills when Mrs. St. John returned apologetically.

She left and for the next week told everyone she met that Mr. St. John was a drunkard and beat his wife.

Finally about eleven that night the Ardent Collector left, laden with a huge box under each arm (including the Giant Blue) and a "How nice of you to give me all this stuff, especially as I forgot to bring my pocketbook".

Monday morning about ten the Lady With Consideration returned; bought ten plants and went away without even trying to pump an additional five dollars worth of information and advice free of charge.

## GREENHOUSE TIPS

Charlotte Hughes, W. Va.

**SHADING--** We began putting a shading compound on the greenhouse in June. The Garland Company, Cleveland, Ohio, puts out a lovely shade of green which we put on the outside. Use one handful of salt in one-half gallon of compound and one gallon of water, let stand over night, then apply with a brush, or, if you wish, spatter it on.

**SPRAY--** Using a spray gun, we sprayed our violets all over - underneath the leaves and in the crown with wettable sulphur. Just forget about mites that may be airborne or carried on the hands or clothes of visitors. Sulphur will also kill the little Springtails that worry us so much, but which do no harm.

**WATERING--** We use a pistol grip cut-off valve on a 1/2 inch foot hose with a 1/4 inch opening. Reducing city water to 30 pounds with a pressure reducer makes the water run slow enough so as not to injure the roots or wash the soil out of the pot. We water one pot, release the trigger, go on to the next pot. This way there is no water running down our arm and dripping from our elbow.

**SPACE SAVER--** For rooting leaves use plant bands placed close together in a flat. We use the fertilized kind. The labels stay in place and they are easy to water and move round. Raise the flat up on boards or coffee cans, place two small electric light bulbs underneath at either end. You don't need a thermometer if the bulbs are small. Remember to take them out when watering.

**SEEDLINGS--** Get seedlings out of starting medium as quick as possible. Transplant at six weeks, at which time they should have about four leaves. If left in too long they will stop growing. Even if they are small, transplant and fertilize with some Hyponex. If they are leggy put them deep in mixture.

**REPOTTING--** Keep the soil in the pots rather coarse. When the roots and soil get to a fine mass, repot. Plants will then use up fertilizer better. Once a year is about right for me. If water stands around the plant, turn the ball of earth out and rearrange the drainage.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* SPECIALIZING IN \*  
\* AFRICAN VIOLETS \*  
\* Send For Free Price List \*  
\* TONKADALE GREENHOUSE \*  
\* Rt. 3 Box 233 Hopkins, Minn. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*



# "Y-E-S, YOU CAN QUOTE ME!"

Daisy Jones

Thus say our Memphis & Shelby County African Violet Club Members who so obligingly turned in their hints, suggestions and poems at our December quarterly meeting. So, here goes:

Mrs. W. E. Ward, President of our Club gives us:

## THE MODEST VIOLET

Though the violet is considered quite modest,

It will toss it's saucy "Red Head"

Shyly wink it's big "Blue Eyes"

Smile very bewitchingly at "Blue Boy"

Often nods her head to "Butterfly"

Raises her eyes to see an "Admiral"

Wears a dress trimmed with "Ruffles"

Often she takes a walk with "Starlight"

Calls the whole world "Gorgeous"

Curtsies low to "White King" and "Orchid Queen"

For she knows the violets are "Supreme".

Mrs. Walter Evans says; "I have found that you can pinch off the little extra crowns that try to start on the main plant (after the crowns have a fairly good start) you can plant these right in your soil mixture, and they will root. Then you have a nice little plant already started with goodsized leaves."

Mrs. Robert Bruce, Chairman of our 1950 African Violet Spring Show suggests: When planting leaves in vermiculite, plant them at a forty-five degree angle . . . more plants will come up.

Mrs. Ethel Bordeaux, one of our enthusiastic club members gives us a poem entitled:

## AFRICAN VIOLET ADVICE

For serene loveliness we are agreed,  
Tender, patient care is what they need.

From Africa in forests near waterfalls  
they came

So to fail to provide shade and moisture is  
a shame.

One third loam; one third peat moss; one  
third sand

Will give good results and is simply grand.

Another good plan as I have found  
Is never, never bury the crown.

When the pot is crowded, make this  
decision,

Your violet is ready for a division.

Hint on Rooting Leaves turned in by  
Ruby Ward is:

Place about one inch of prepared potting soil in the bottom of a glass jar, then about two inches of vermiculite on top, stick leaves in to be rooted on an angle, keep soil damp, place cover on jar and place in a north or east window. Plants will soon start from the leaves and with the soil in the bottom of the jar, they will be stronger plants than with just vermiculite.

Mrs. Marie S. Cassidy who personally has recently brought in thirty-one new club members gives us a lovely poem entitled:

## THE SAINTPAULIA

A Across the miles of land and sea,

F From Africa there comes to me,

R Rarest of flowers of that great land,

I In many hues and splendor grand.

C Carrying with them their quiet glory

A And whispering to me their sweetest  
story,

N Nodding their heads in their knowing  
way,

V Veiling with mystery the things they  
say.

I I listened intently to hear perchance

O Of the origin of their elegance,

L Leaning close to their pert faces

E Expecting tales from far flung places

T They whispered low with a pious nod, -

S "Saintpaulia's our name, - we come from  
God."

I believe you will readily agree that we have a very fine club. We certainly are proud of our club membership which now totals 166 paid members besides many honorary members who are invalids, heart patients, etc. Our club is growing in leaps and bounds, believe me.

My suggestion . . . Make our Club Motto "GROWING FOR SHOWING". It should stimulate enthusiasm, encouragement, and ambition by our club members to grow violets they would be proud to show their friends, their neighbors, and to vie in competition with others.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* AFRICAN VIOLET LEAVES - - - \*  
\* Many new and outstanding varieties. \*  
\* Orders carefully handled and safe \*  
\* delivery guaranteed. \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

Descriptive list upon request.

MRS. LOUISE TRIBBLE

Fort Payne, Alabama

\*\*\*\*\*

# HUMIDITY IN THE LITTLE GREENHOUSE

Martha Mears, Ind.

When to supply and when to withhold humidity in the small greenhouse is often like the question asked, 'How often should I water my violets?' There is no definite answer to either one; so many conditions in either case are to be considered. You have to do what the experienced grower does with his watering problem, use your head and a lot of common sense; after you do this you will be far along to solving the question yourself. I am not writing from the standpoint of the greenhouse that is equipped with all the modern gadgets that will even register your humidity, but rather from the small one, where the owner will soon learn from experience whether there is humidity in the house or not. You will soon learn by feel or smell alone. When you open the door and enter, dry air should not greet you, but rather that moist, warm air; like springtime in the woods.

There are some times in the year when you should use the hose daily or sometimes more often; and other times when you should be very careful not to add any more moisture than is already in the air.

The two most trying times of the year are in the season of spring and fall rains in our part of the country; this applies to any time of year when there are prolonged rains and the outside air is heavy and full of moisture. This is another time to use a little thought; keep the ventilators open as much as possible, avoid wetting down the walks, do not water your plants or the benches any more than is necessary. Too much humidity will cause leaf rot, crown blight and a number of other minor troubles. If plants are crowded at this time with poor air circulation whole benches of them can be lost. Sometimes a little heat to dry out the house or a fan to circulate the air will help.

There are more times in the year when you will find it necessary to supply additional humidity than to withhold it. These are the times of drying winds, hot dry days, when heat is turned on in the fall, and those cold, cold days when all out doors is frozen tight.

It just stands to reason that when there is a strong hot wind blowing or a very hot day comes along with the sun pouring down on the earth, that the air is going to absorb all the moisture that it can find and that the greenhouse will not escape. This is the time to be liberal with the hose or watering can. Keep the sand or whatever material you use on the benches moist, spray the foliage of the violets with warm water, hose down the walks, walls and under the benches, several times a day if necessary. Don't open the ventilators any more than is necessary, just enough to keep a good supply of fresh air in the house.

Most plants need a good supply of humidity, especially our violets, and, if nature does not supply it, we must. If the humidity is low, the soil in the pots will dry out much more quickly. We know also that plants get some of their food from the air and it is more readily available from moist air.

The other times that I spoke about were winter. The type of heat that you use in the greenhouse will have a lot to do with your humidity. Steam, hot water heat and open gas stoves will not dry out the air like coal or oil stoves. During most of the winter months the air is moist out of doors and this also keeps the air moist in the greenhouse. Last year I used a coal heater (Warm Morning), this year I am using oil with an electric fan to circulate the heat. This is a very drying type of heat, and I find it necessary to wet down the walks, especially around the stove, almost as often as in the summer. I also keep a large can of water on top of the stove which keeps steaming all the time.

Another time in winter when it may be necessary to supply additional humidity is in prolonged severe frozen periods. All the moisture outside is frozen, even the air is dry, so it is not available to the greenhouse.

Be observing, look at your plants, look at your walks, your walls and take that full deep breath as you open the door. You will soon become wise: whether to add humidity, withhold it, or let well enough alone.

## AUTOMATIC WATERING FOR YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS

Send 45c for one Glaswick, holder saucer and instructions (3 for \$1.25) or 50c for 3 wicks only - postpaid. Use your own pots. System recommended by Dr. Post of Cornell. Remarkable results.

ATLAS ASBESTOS COMPANY  
Box AV North Wales, Pa.

## AFRICAN VIOLET

"BLUE GIRL SUPREME"

\$2.00 Postpaid

This variety is my own introduction, with midnight-blue giant sized flowers, husky compact foliage heavily scalloped.

Growing Instructions and FREE illustrated African Violet Catalog — Write today!

MRS. JENNIE SPOUTZ

13310 State Fair Detroit 5, Mich.  
"African Violets for Beginners & Collectors"



# SOIL STERILIZATION

James L. Pointer

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this experiment was to find an easy, convenient way to sterilize soil in small quantities for the hobbyist growing potted plants in the home.

## PROCEDURE

After taking into consideration the limited facilities the average hobbyist has in the home, it was decided to use four different containers as follows:

Containers	Pounds of soil	Amount of dowfume
1. ½-pint jar	1#	4 drops
2. 1-pint shallow pan	2-3/4#	5 drops
3. 3-pint (sealed pickle jar)	3#	12 drops
4. Garbage can lid	6#	3 cc
		(15+ drops = 1 cc)

The garden dowfume was put in the soil at a depth of 1 inch and the surface was moistened with water to prevent a rapid loss of the fumes.

The soil used was from a tomato bed heavily infested with root knot nematodes. The treated soil was left in the respective containers sixteen days, then taken out and put in sterile pots and disease-free tomato plants were set to determine if there were any nematodes remaining in the soil.

After two weeks the plants were taken up and the roots checked for nematode damage. The roots were studied under a microscope, but no trace of nematodes could be found.

## CONCLUSION

This is a cheap, easy, simple, and efficient way to sterilize soil, especially where there are limited facilities. The containers could be any discarded bucket, pan, or jar.

Where greater quantities of soil are needed, a lard can or a garbage can could be used to sterilize the soil -- by adding a greater concentration of dowfume.

The soil could be taken from the container as needed and would remain sterile unless re-infested by the user.

Editors Note:— Soil should be aired 2 weeks before using.

### AFRICAN VIOLET FLOWER PINS

Ceramics in all colors. \$1.50 prepaid.

MRS. LILLIE KUEHN

4026 Garden Ave.

Merchantsville 11, N. J.

### McFarland's Blue Warrior (Reg.)

Leaf 50¢ - Plant \$1.25 & \$1.50 according to size (2" pot)

Blue Warrior Supreme leaves

(Very limited quantity) 75¢

25¢ additional for leaf shipping;

50¢ for plants.

GEORGE P. McFARLAND

515 S. Walnut St.

West Chester, Pa.

### HOUSE PLANTS

African Violets, Ferns, Ivies, Begonias, Geraniums, Cacti and Succulents, Foliage Plants.

Fertilizer — Hyponex 7 oz. 50¢

1 lb. \$1.00

Other Fertilizers, Soils and other items to fill your needs.

N.N.O.R. 6 oz. \$1.00, 16 oz. \$2.15, Sprayer for insecticide throws hard penetrating spray, \$2.25.

If ordering above items separate, add 35¢ for shipping.

Send for fall listing

YOARS HOUSEPLANT  
NURSERY

Route 1

Bunker Hill, Ind.

## NEW AFRICAN VIOLETS

**FANTASY** Light lavender blossoms, rayed, splashed and dotted with deep purple. Hardly any two blossoms alike. \$3.00 each.

**LADY CONSTANCE** Giant, deep purple blossoms. Beautiful supreme foliage. \$3.00 each.

### NEW LOW PRICES

On many of our standard and choice varieties.

No shipping. Open weekdays and Sundays till dark.

Visitors Welcome

**Behnke**  
NURSERIES

Wash.-Balto. Blvd., Beltsville, Md.  
Just 5 miles north of Univ. of Md.,  
directly on U. S. Route No. 1

Grow prize winning African violets with Terra-Lite brand vermiculite. It's fun to start your own plants and even more enjoyable and easier to start them in Terra-Lite. Larger, healthier roots develop quicker in Terra-Lite and with less care. Terra-Lite holds moisture longer and at the same time allows air to circulate freely.

Terra-Lite is good for house plants too. A little Terra-Lite mixed in with the potting soil will keep it loose and prevent cracking. Frequent watering is unnecessary because Terra-Lite holds moisture longer, and the golden granules of Terra-Lite add a touch of beauty to brighten house plants.

Let Terra-Lite help you to more success and enjoyment in growing African violets. See your garden supply dealer today.



Terra-Lite is reg. T. M. of  
Zonolite Company, Chicago, Ill.

## AFRICAN VIOLETS

Spring list ready about March First.

Write for free copy.

MRS. T. C. BEE

Route # 3  
Newnan, Ga.

## AFRICAN VIOLET "MUSTS"

**AFRI-GRO:** (New reduced price)  
Sterilized potting soil, Soilene treated.  
Generous 4 lb. bag \$1.00 Postpaid.  
**HY-GRO:** Modern liquid fertilization  
at it's best, will not burn. Jar 65¢  
Postpaid.

**VERMICULITE:** New medium for  
seed starting & rooting leaves, many  
other uses. Full instructions. 4 Qt.  
bag \$1.00 Postpaid.

**CHARCOAL:** Pulverized, horticultural  
grade, for adding to soil, for  
water-growing plants etc. 1 lb. plastic  
bag 50¢ Postpaid.

**PEAT MOSS:** Horticultural grade,  
soil conditioning and many other uses.  
1 lb. plastic bag 40¢ Postpaid.

**ELECTRIC PLANT STARTER:** Modern,  
scientific unit for propagating,  
ideal for starting Violet seeds. Complete  
with heating unit, thermostat,  
glass wick waterer, vermiculite, liquid  
fertilizer. Carries money back guarantee.  
\$10.00 Postpaid.

**WIK-FED POTS:** 6 pastel colors 4  
inch size \$1.15 each. 6 for \$6.00  
Postpaid. New 5 inch size \$1.50 each  
Postpaid.

**CARE & CULTURE OF THE AFRICAN  
VIOLET:** New 4th edition by  
Lloyd P. Lindsey. Very concise &  
practical booklet. 60¢ each Postpaid.

**THE AFRICAN VIOLET:** by Helen  
Van Pelt Wilson. 6th edition, completely  
revised. A beautiful book  
every Violet Fan should have. \$2.75  
Postpaid.

SEND FOR OUR NEW  
1950 PRICE LIST.

**VIRGINIA LEE GARDENS**

DEPT. A GREENSBORO, MD.

\$1.00 ea.

Blue Boy  
Redhead  
Blushing Maiden  
Double Duchess.

\$1.50 ea.

Fischer's Double Margaret  
Fischer's Dark Lavender Double  
Selection.

Lady Geneva. \$2.00

These are specimen plants with  
multiple crowns, budded but not in  
flower. Shipped charges prepaid.

**FRED G. LEWIS  
GREENHOUSES**

519 Locust St. Lockport, N. Y.





From left to right, Mrs. Harry Moeller, Mrs. E. R. Lotz, Mrs. John Landaker, Mrs. A. B. Cooper and Mrs. Arthur Radtke.

## CINCINNATI SHOW

The Queen City African Violet Society of Cincinnati held its first competitive show at the zoo gardens on Sept. 24-25. The show was open to the public from noon until 6 p.m. The register showed visitors from Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, numbering over 3000.

Guest of honor and Judge of the show was Mrs. Earl Mutchner of Richmond, Indiana.

Staging and decoration was beautifully carried out in white, green and violet blue, under the direction of Mrs. Edward Lotz.

Classification of the 77 varieties and 250 plants was graciously handled by our own President, Mrs. Arthur Radtke.

The display of various methods of propagation and soil mixture was very interesting and educational, as was also the free literature, "Violet Culture for the Amateur" furnished by the Cincinnati Post.

Mrs. A. B. Cooper of Covington, Kentucky was chairman of the show.

## DOUBLE TROUBLE CONT.

into a prize-winning specimen. As time goes by, and the poor plant gets only what light and fresh air are not absorbed by its lower brothers and sisters, the first thing you know a remark from a husband such as, "Those awful looking doubles! Why don't you throw them out?" is sufficient to cause the poor things to give up the ghost.

Good light and feeding have been stressed in most of these replies. Along with them, I think good ventilation is important, too. Above all, I think perhaps they need to be given a little extra T. L. C.\*

And, so, Mary Jones, if this help has not arrived too late, the best of luck and good growing!

\* Tender loving care

## VIOLETS GROW in new, amazing Syco Bowls

Intensive research has developed the bowls acclaimed at recent AVSA convention. SYCO bowls cut down attention necessary for indoor plants and flowers; exclusive moisture control aids growth. Available in 2 colors and 14 shapes, \$1.00 to \$3.50. If your florist doesn't stock them write directly to:—

THE SYCOBOWLS CORP.  
28 S. Wycombe Ave.  
Lansdowne, Pa.

# SCHEDULE OF AWARDS - FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

## SECTION A

- CLASS 1. Newest or best seedling by a non-commercial member.
2. Newest or best sport by a non-commercial member.
3. Newest or best seedling by a commercial grower.
4. Newest or best sport by a commercial grower.

## SECTION B

- CLASS 1. Local Club displays of specimen plants. Space to be reserved not later than March 31, 1950. Clubs to furnish crepe paper table covering and flower pot covering of own color choice. Suitable Club name cards to be furnished by clubs. First, second and third awards will be given each club display.
- CLASS 2. Arrangement using one or more African violet plants or flowers

with accessories or other plants. Miniatures included in this class. No entry to cover more space than 20" wide X 18" deep. Reservations for space must be made before March 31, 1950.

## CLASS 3. Local club year books.

1. Entries will be limited to members of the African Violet Society of America.
2. Exhibitors will not be allowed in display room during judging period, under penalty of disqualification.
3. The decision of the judges in making awards shall be considered final in all cases. First, second and third prizes shall be given each class, except in class 3.
4. Hostesses will be supplied to furnish protection for exhibits, and to welcome guests.

Reservation for space should be sent to Mrs. R. J. Schadewald, 7 Lexington Ave., Havertown, Pa., Chairman 1950 Convention.



*Saintpaulia Growers*

629 WEST MATTHEWS AVE. JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

LITERATURE ON REQUEST



# VIRDANS

## FIRST AID KIT

for

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Brand New! everything you need to control aphids, leaf hoppers, thrips, mealybugs, plant lice, red spider, springtails, cyclamen and African Violet mites. Complete kit consists of OPTOX, one-hand-operated DeVilbiss atomizer, medicine dropper, and SOILENE -- sells for only \$2.50 postpaid. Order today; Protect your plants (West of Chicago, add 25¢ for packing, postage) Write for new free circular on African Violets. **\$2.50** Postpaid

V I R D A N S F A R M S

Box 123-L Phelps, New York



Mrs. W. R. Sawry of the San Gabriel Society and her prize winning arrangement which won the Sweepstake Award.



### POTS FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

4" "Squatty" Clay Flower Pots, dark red in color and with excellent porosity, are ideal for AFRICAN VIOLETS. Has specially treated edges to help prevent sloughing off of leaves. Used by florists for growing violets, and recommended as one of the best for good results. Shipped prepaid parcel post.

4 for \$1.00

10 for \$2.00

25¢ additional postage west of the Rockies

CERAMO COMPANY

Box 84-A

Jackson, Missouri

SODIUM SELENATE. For Control of mites on African Violets. In Capsules of ¼ gram each, convenient for Extra-Dilute Method of treatment. 12 capsules (enough for about 200 plants) for one dollar, post-paid.

Mrs. Neil C. Miller

Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J.

## SAN GABRIEL SOCIETY

The San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. met the first part of December for a combined Thanksgiving and Christmas party with gift exchange. Mrs. Nelson P. Walters, First Vice-President and Program Chairman, presented a unique contest for the most beautiful and novel package wrapped as a gift and for table decorations. First place was won by Mrs. Ernest Mackey, President, who also presided at the meeting, second place going to Miss Helen Hellweg, and the special award was won by her mother, Mrs. Anna Hellweg, for her hand carved Santa Claus and sleigh in a Swedish table decoration.

Mrs. Robert Schrecengost, Arcadia, and Mrs. A. H. Anderson, Pasadena, acted as judges for the contest.

Mr. J. J. Littlefield, noted commentator of radio and television, presented on station KXLA Mrs. Ernest Mackey, Mrs. Ernest Ruebels and Mrs. Fred P. George, Temple City. Their topic was African violets and their culture.

This Chapter offered a cash prize of \$10.00 to the sweepstake winner in the African violet division at the Temple City Woman's Club recent fall flower show. Mrs. W. R. Sawrey, Temple City, was the winner of this award, winning the Blue Ribbon and also the Special Award. The winning plants were planted in a palm frond in the shape of a canoe about three feet long. Twelve plants of the varieties Blue Boy, Blue Girl and Pink Girl were used in this container.

## CLUB NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor  
1920 W. 3rd St.  
Perry, Iowa

### McKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

On November 5, 1949 the African Violet Society of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, was formed under the sponsorship of Mrs. Richard L. Fait. Twelve persons were present, 10 ladies and 2 gentlemen. Mrs. Fait explained the purposes of a local society, and also informed those present of the National Organization. After a general discussion, formal organization of the society took place and the following officers were elected:

President, Mrs. R. L. Fait  
Vice-Pres., Mrs. W. B. Renshaw  
Sec'y. & Treas., Mrs. V. A. Leeper

### MINNEAPOLIS SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY

In September, 1949, a group of twelve African violet enthusiasts met and formed the Minneapolis Saintpaulia Society. The following officers were elected:

President, Mrs. Herbert H. Stevens  
Vice-Pres., Mrs. Laurent Olson  
Secretary, Mrs. Frank Heschmeyer  
Program Chm., Mrs. Walter Hagen

This Society meets the third Monday of the month, each member taking her turn holding the meetings in her home.

### LOS ANGELES SOCIETY

African violets again make television on the West Coast. On October 12, 1949, over KFI National Broadcasting System, Mrs. Clarissa Harris, 1st Vice-pres. of the Los Angeles Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., and also Regional Director for the West Coast, spoke on African violets and the African Violet Society of America, Inc. She displayed many of her lovely plants, among which was a beautiful specimen plant of Marine, which is her own introduction.

The Los Angeles Chapter held an executive meeting at the home of Mrs. Harris on October 7, 1949. A delicious luncheon was served and plans for the coming year were discussed, among them plans for a Spring Violet Show. Through the efforts of the Los Angeles Garden Center, this Chapter will provide plants to the Sawtell Veterans Hospital. The Veterans will grow the violets in their hot houses to provide blooming plants for the less fortunate boys who cannot be outside to enjoy them.

The newly elected officers for the year are:

President, Mrs. Carolyn Rector  
1st Vice-Pres., Mrs. Clarissa Harris  
2nd Vice-Pres., Mrs. Mae Ehrhardt  
Secretary, Mrs. Genevieve Marsh  
Treasurer, Miss Nellie Morris  
Hostess, Mrs. Sophia Schultz  
Publicity, Mrs. Edith Mackey

### AKRON, OHIO ORGANIZES

On November 8, the newly organized African Violet Society of Akron, Ohio, held its first meeting. The Constitution was approved, and the following officers were elected:

President, Mrs. Roy Gracy  
Vice-Pres., Mrs. Earl Millington  
Secretary, Mr. George R. Klewe  
Treasurer, Miss Evelyn Hawk

The present membership of this group is twelve, all members of the National Society.

### FORT WAYNE SOCIETY

The Fort Wayne Chapter of the African Violet Society of America was formed October 8, 1949, at the YWCA, with seventeen ladies in attendance. The group selected the name of Neptune for the Club.

Officers elected were:

President, Mrs. Wm. C. Rhodda  
Vice-Pres., Mrs. Carl Reckeweg  
Rec. Secy., Mrs. Lewis Miller  
Treasurer, Mrs. Albert Schonefeld  
Corres. Secy., Mrs. W. G. Brondt

The group will hold its meeting on the second Tuesday morning of the month.

Each program will have a speaker on a subject pertaining to African Violets, and each member will prepare a three minute talk on her experience with the given subject. A round table discussion will follow.

A grab bag leaf exchange will be one of the features of the next meeting, at which time each member will give a three minute talk explaining how she became interested in African violets.

### BEAN CREEK VALLEY CLUB

On October 21, 1949, thirteen African violet fans met at the home of Mrs. Robert Cunningham, Hudson, Mich. Nine of these 13 formed the Bean Creek Valley African Violet Club. All members are members of the National Society.

The following officers were elected for the year.

President, Mrs. Robert Cunningham  
Vice-Pres., Mrs. Ruth Ruder  
Secretary, Mrs. John Slivka  
Treasurer, Mrs. Lucille Riley

This most unusual name was chosen by the Club members because Bean Creek has its source in Michigan, ending in Ohio, while the Violet Club has all Michigan members except one who lives in Ohio. Meeting dates are the first Tuesday of each month.



## CENTRAL CONNECTICUT CLUB

On November 3, a group of eight African violet fans met to formulate plans for a Club in the Hartford area. On November 29th, the first meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Gilbert Ashley, Wethersfield, Conn., with 26 members present. The Central Connecticut Saintpaulia Club was organized at that time, and the following officers were elected for a period of two years:

President, Mrs. Edward Christ,  
New Britain, Conn  
Vice-Pres., Mrs. F. C. Beekley,  
West Hartford, Conn.  
Secretary, Mrs. Robert J. Dowling,  
Wethersfield, Conn  
Treasurer, Mrs. Fay E. Downer,  
Canton Center, Conn.

Due to the bad weather of the winter months, this group decided to start with four meetings a year, meeting the second Tuesday in March, May, September, and November.

## FLINT AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

The Flint African Violet Society held its first fall meeting on September 9, 1949, in Ballenger Park, Flint, Michigan.

The following are officers for the year:

President, Mrs. James Atkins  
Vice-Pres., Mrs. I. E. Clement  
Treasurer, Mrs. James Gardner  
Rec. Secy., Mrs. Russell Gordy  
Corres. Secy., Mrs. Samuel Thompson

The members' African violet notebooks covering last years activities were judged by Mrs. Ralph Ellsworth and Mrs. Herbert Beavis. Prizes were awarded to Mrs. Thomas Drake and Mrs. Russell Gordy. Mrs. Atkins then gave out new year books to the chairmen of the eight Flint chapters.

After the business session concluded the members enjoyed a basket luncheon.

Following the luncheon, the meeting was opened to all interested people from Flint and surrounding cities. Mrs. I. E. Clement, Vice-President, introduced Prof. C. E. Wildon, head of the Department of Horticulture from Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan, who gave a demonstration lecture on the mixing of soils for the African violet.

## WINNIBAGO COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

On September 30, 1949, nine African violet enthusiasts met at the home of Mrs. Allen Rice for the purpose of organizing a local Violet Society.

Constitution and By-laws were drawn up and adopted, and the following officers were elected:

President, Mrs. Allen Rice  
Vice-Pres., Mrs. John Donovan  
Secretary, Mrs. Elof Carlson  
Treasurer, Mrs. Dorothy Lindroth

Meetings for a time will be the third Thursday of each month.

## METROPOLITAN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

On Saturday and Sunday, November 12 and 13, 1949, the Metropolitan African Violet Club put on an exhibit and sale of Saintpaulias in conjunction with the National Canary Show in Washington, D. C.

The plants were arranged on tables according to color, there being one hundred plants with sixty-four varieties.

Judges were Dr. Freeman Weiss, Pathologist, Beltsville, Maryland, and Mrs. Frank Pochurek, Corresponding Secretary of the National Society, from Cleveland, Ohio.

On other tables smaller plants were for sale and a 10% discount was given to the Treasury of the Club which will help defray expenses of a future show.

## GREATER AKRON SOCIETY

The African Violet Society of Greater Akron was organized November 17, 1949. All members of this group are members of the National Society. The officers are: President, Mrs. E. Pearle Turner  
Vice-Pres., Mrs. Harry Baughman  
Rec. Secy, Mrs. M. J. Fisher  
Corr. Secy., Mrs. Harold Dannemiller  
Treasurer, Mrs. John J. Martin

## INFORMATION ! !

The following members cannot be located by these addresses. Please help us find them.

Mrs. F. L. Cherney,  
106 E. Elm Ave.,  
Flandreau, South Carolina.

Mrs. Mildred Snow,  
509-A Delmar Ave.,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Mrs. Catherine Stephenson,  
1611 S. W. Blvd.,  
Kansas City 3, Mo.

Dr. Fred A. Heimstra,  
8022 W. 29th Place,  
North Riverside, Ill.

## In Memoriam

Miss Marion Thomas

January 19, 1950

FREE SAMPLE  
PLANTSMITHS  
**SPOONIT**

"JUST THE THING" for African violets.

A trial will cost you but one penny - for a postal card. So send today for your sample, and join the fast-growing SPOONIT CLUB.

PLANTSMITH  
Box 818A      Palo Alto Calif.

# AFRICAN VIOLET EXHIBIT

Visitors Welcome

9 to 3 Monday through Friday

Closed Saturday and Sunday

We are putting on exhibit all of our own varieties that we have for sale and new ones that we intend to introduce in the future and as many of the other people's varieties as we can buy, also.

Anyone having a new variety that they wish put on exhibit we will be glad to buy one plant.

This exhibit has no connection with The African Violet Society or the classifying of the different varieties of African Violets.

This is an educational program to acquaint the people with the different varieties.

We will be open the Saturday and Sunday following the African Violet Show at Philadelphia so you can stop if you are going this way.

**R. G. BAXTER GREENHOUSE**

2023 BELMONT

ROUTE 90 - 2 MILES NORTH OF THE SQUARE

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

## BACK ISSUES OF THE MAGAZINE

Reprints of Volume 1, Numbers 2, 3 and 4 are now available in limited numbers - the cost is 50¢ each post paid. If you want these do order them now as no further reprintings will be made. Volume 1 Number 1 was not reprinted.

Not all back issues of Volume 2 are now in print. Requests for these must be made on penny post card and you will be notified which ones are available.

Orders will be mailed promptly by 3rd Class Mail. Please give your magazines time to reach you before writing in about them. 3rd Class Mail travels more slowly . . .

Make all checks and money orders payable to the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Send requests to Alma Wright,  
4030 McCalla Ave.,  
Knoxville 15, Tenn.



# VIOLET LOVERS ATTENTION

Why not be among the first to add the newest creation in African violets to your collection? From our observation, and from the enthusiastic expressions of some of the leading violet growers and magazine editors, who have seen them, we believe we have produced the "QUEEN" of all the African violets - "FISCHER'S FRINGETTE STRAIN".

The FRINGETTE STRAIN is a group of violets whose petals have a delightfully wavy appearance, with a decidedly fringed edge, set off by a bright yellow eye, which makes it a thing of real beauty. It is the result of a single violet crossed with our popular Double, and therefore retains many of the characteristics of the Double, among which are it's longer lasting qualities. To those who like distinctive shades, FRINGETTE comes in beautiful shades of Royal Blue and Dark Blue at \$1.50; Red Lavender and Blue Lavender at \$2.00; Mauvette Lavender and Pure White at \$2.50; or \$10.00 for one each of the set of six, which is a saving of \$2.00. All plants are out of 2 1/4" pots and are good, healthy plants.

The FRINGETTE STRAIN is produced by the originators of the famous FISCHER DOUBLE VIOLETS and the popular MY LADY SERIES. We ship to all parts of the country postage prepaid on orders of \$5.00, otherwise add ten cents per plant. No C.O.D. orders accepted. Send for our FREE descriptive folder and price-list which contains many other varieties, and information on how to grow African violets successfully in your own home.



Greenhouses,

Dept. FM

Linwood, New Jersey

## FANTASTIC GARDENS

Specializing in Tropical Shade Plants

- Episcia coccinea -  
Brownish hairy leaves with silvery veins; scarlet flowers ..... \$1.00
- Episcia cupreata -  
Hairy copper-colored leaves; scarlet flowers ..... \$1.00
- Episcia splendens -  
Smooth light green and silver leaves; scarlet flowers ..... \$1.50
- Episcia chontalensis -  
Dark green hairy leaves, large fringed lilac flowers ..... \$1.50

These plants are very tropical, so to insure safe arrival we will not start shipping before May 15th.

Orders for \$5.00 or over sent insured parcel post;  
for smaller order add 50¢.

Write for price list.

R. G. WILSON

Route 2 — Box 594 — Miami, Florida

# ATTEND THE 1950 AFRICAN VIOLET CONVENTION!

Sincere wishes to the African Violet Society of America for its greatest success at the 1950 Violet Convention at Philadelphia.

We extend a cordial invitation to our violet friends to visit our greenhouses, located in the picturesque valley of Bethayres, 15 miles N. E. of the center of Philadelphia. One mile west of Route 232 and 1 block north of Route 63. If driving from convention headquarters of the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, take North Broad St. to Jenkintown, turn right at Jenkintown to Bethayres. If coming by train from Philadelphia to our greenhouses in Bethayres, take the West Trenton Local Train at Reading Terminal 12th and Market St. to Bethayres. Train service every hour. Thirty minute run to Bethayres. Taxi service at Bethayres.

It has been a privilege to serve you in the past and we look forward with pleasure to meeting you personally.



Greenhouses open daily and Sundays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Evening by appointment.

## *Tinari Floral Gardens*

Saintpaulia Growers and Specialists, Hybridizers

Valley & Terwood Roads

BETHAYRES, PENNSYLVANIA

Phone: Chapel Hill 0144

New 1950 catalog now available